

# Public Libraries

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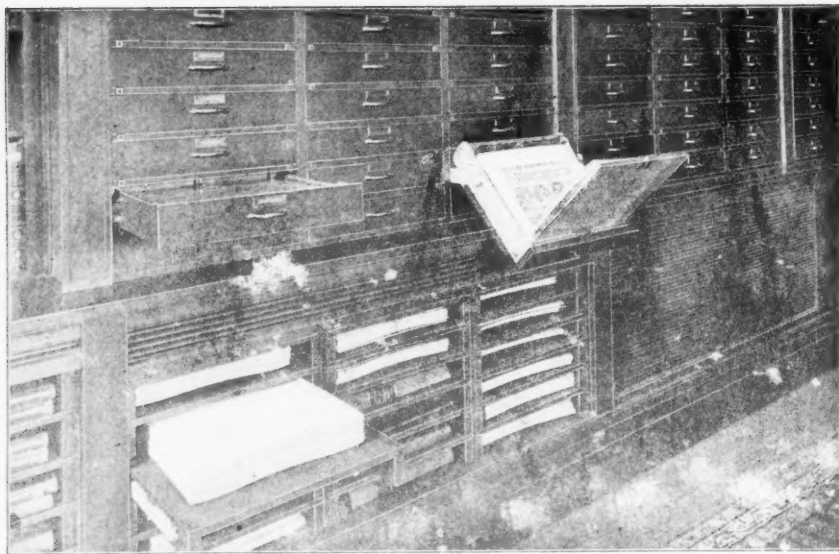
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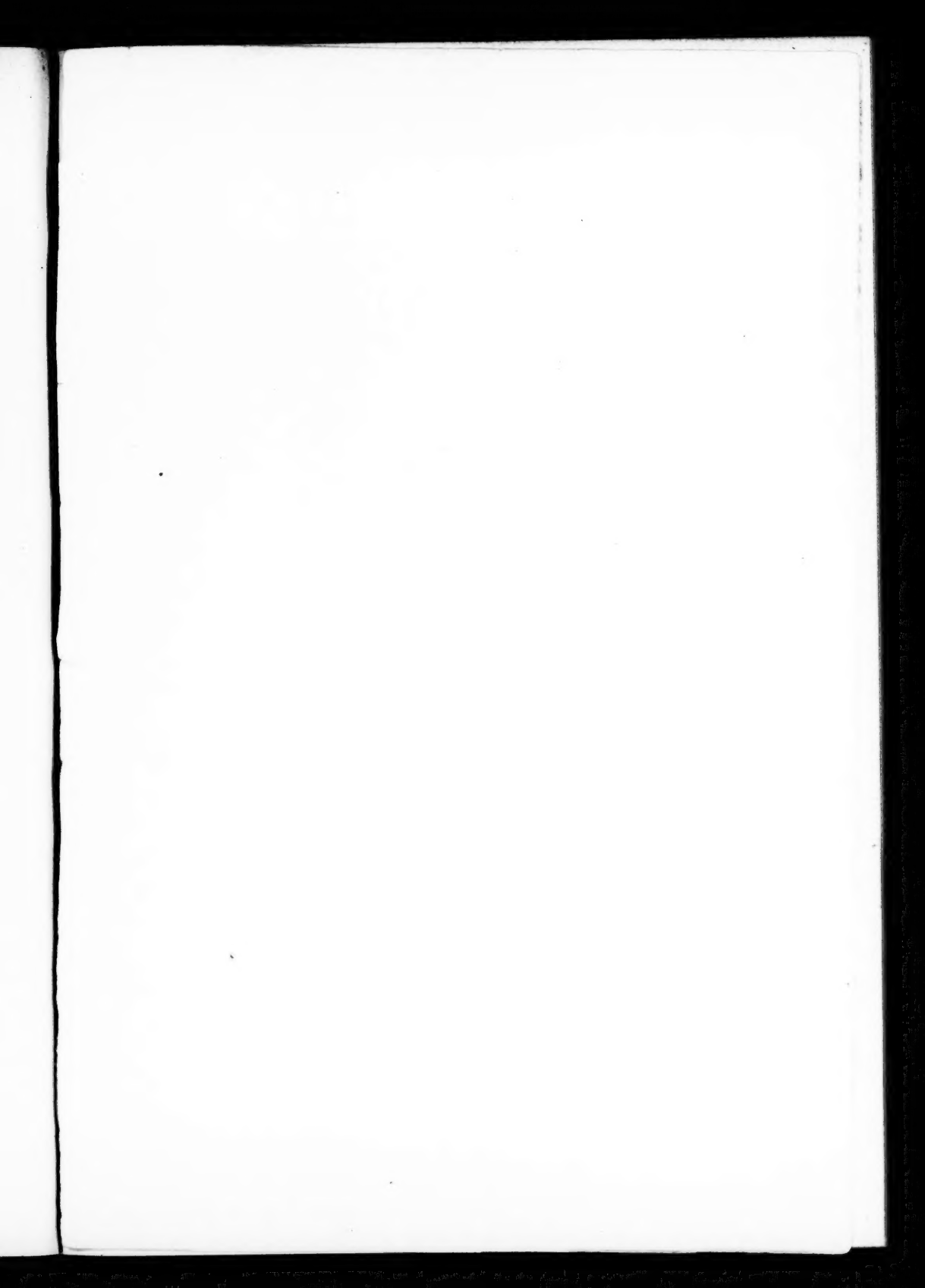
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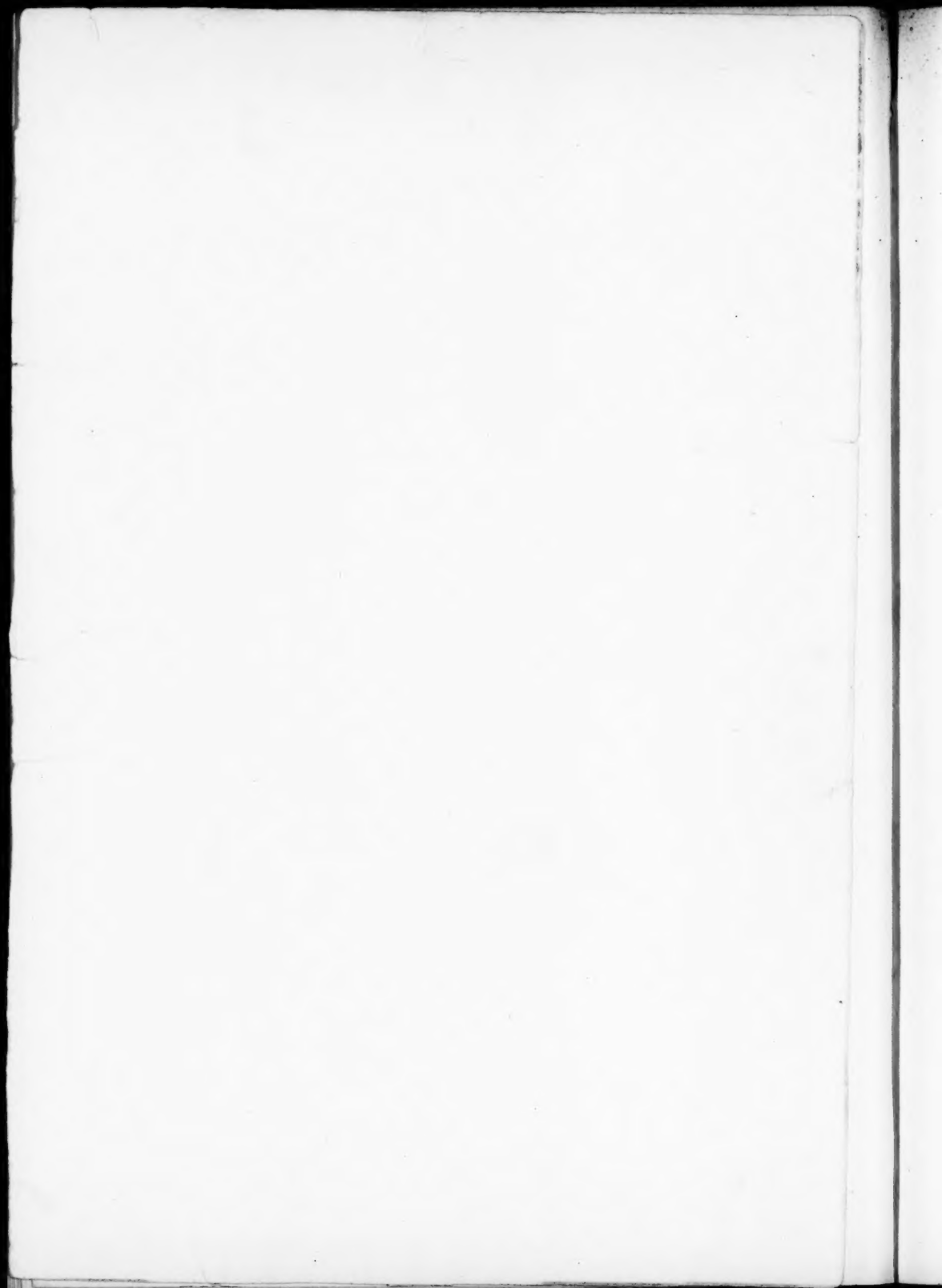
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# Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

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## The Library Field as Illustrated by a Certain Library\*

J. C. Dana, librarian Newark (N. J.) Public library

I select the Newark library, not because it is the best library; but because I know it best. And because it illustrates fairly well, by the things it is doing, and the things it hopes to do, and the things it would like to try, the field of work which lies before every library in the country.

Newark has a population of about 300,000. It is seven miles from New York. It is a manufacturing suburb of that city. But it is more. It has an identity, a civic consciousness, of its own. Founded by Connecticut Yankees in 1667, further established by the Dutch, it held to conservative ways for nearly two centuries. Germans brought to it a touch of their liberalism after their revolution in '48. As the industrial development of the last 30 years came on, men found Newark had cheap sites, good land and water transportation, moderate taxation and a fair municipal administration; and they came and built factories and made things. They are still making things, of every kind. To the factories came many workers from foreign countries. Newark outgrew its own conception of itself. It felt, to the older folks, like the quiet, conservative residence village it once was. It was, in fact, a great city. Hardly more than a dozen years ago, it woke to a realization of this. It equipped itself with a superior water

supply. It was foremost in acquiring great tracts of land for a system of parks for the county. It built an adequate high school. It established a free public library. Soon the library needed a building, and the building came. It cost, with the land, \$425,000. It is large enough for 25 years to come, without considering economy of space. It is light in every corner. It is simple and dignified in its exterior. Within it is impressive, and gives the taxpayer that pride of possession which perhaps every public building should produce. The presence of this fair and worthy structure on their main street has helped the people to wish for others like it—and a court house and a city hall appropriate to a great municipality are now under way.

I have said our building is large enough and well lighted. Perhaps that is sufficient praise. Of few library buildings can those things be said. It is also conveniently arranged. It has rooms not at present needed by the library proper on all four floors; and it has its own plant for producing heat, light, and power.

I feel free to praise this building highly, as I had nothing to do with its planning. Mr Hill and his directors put it up, not on theory or precedent, but on a careful study of their needs. I can speak more freely, also, of the work of the library itself than I could were it not, primarily, Mr Hill's organization I am carrying on, his plans in great measure which I am trying to carry out.

Newark is a manufacturing city, consequently it has a very large proportion

\*Part of the address given before the Indiana Library association at Indianapolis, Oct. 1, 1903.

of laborers and mechanics, skilled and unskilled, in its population. It is 30 minutes and ten cents from New York; consequently, most of its artistic, literary, scientific and musical, and much of its financial and social interest centers there. The result is, that it has, relatively, to other large cities which are remote from the greatest centers of wealth, population, and general human attraction, a rather slight educational, recreational, and generally self-centered life of its own. Not that the lawyers, doctors, preachers, manufacturers, business men, teachers—and women—may be considered slow, apathetic, or uninterested. But they have the habit in matters such as those I have named, of looking elsewhere. The city has no art gallery, no museum of natural history, no music hall worthy of itself, no adequate art school, no sufficient technical school, and joins with the state in permitting the historical library to languish for lack of funds.

Now, in any community, old or young, large or small, which for causes peculiar to itself has not, or has in poor estate, the institutions and interests which I have mentioned, what should be the attitude of the free public library which the people of that community have had the forethought to build, equip and provide with sure income? We have a building which is in itself a stimulus to the broader interest and the wider view; ideally arranged for library work proper and for work outside of book-lending, an annual income of about \$50,000, and a community which, with a business view arising naturally in a city devoted chiefly to business, looks for a maximum of result from all its investments—and what should we do?

We should make ourselves in effect a part of all the school work of the city, public and private.

On our fourth floor—with elevator—is a large unassigned room. Pending the completion of the new city hall, offices were needed for certain school supervisors. We were glad of an opportunity to give them this room. In other unassigned rooms these and other super-

visors hold meetings with their teachers. Naturally the teachers come to think of the library as part of their own equipment. They call on us for help in many ways. We believe they feel that we are working with them.

Most of their organizations hold their meetings in the library. The pleasant relations already established between the library and the schools have been in this way widened and strengthened. Thousands of pupils hear of our books through teachers who freely advertise us. Our little school-room libraries—20 to 40 books in a case lent for a term or a year, selected by the teacher, and changed at her request—were taken with pleasure and interest, and three times as many of them as we had (about 90) would have been gladly taken could we have purchased them.

We should aid in such work as school-room decoration.

Newark is interested as are most cities in making its school rooms more beautiful and more attractive. In furnishing our library rooms we have had this fact in mind. We framed some of the German lithographs from Teubner; some of the French lithographs by Riviere, some of the Historical series of Langl, and some of his Geographical series; showed the Seeman black and white prints, gave an exhibition of fine carbon photographs, and next month we are to have a display of all the different kinds of pictures suitable for this purpose that we can discover, framed, cataloged, described and priced. This is not done at random. All decoration of school rooms should be under the direction of a committee, of which the supervisor of drawing in the schools should be the head. And we put forward nothing that does not approve itself to the proper authorities. The possibilities of work in this direction are not yet realized. A simple, inexpensive, appropriate, attractive furnishing of our school rooms would train our teachers themselves and then the pupils in the elements of good taste in decoration and design, and would hasten the coming of the day when more of our manufactured

products shall have that final touch, born of skill in design and cultivated taste, which so many of them now need.

We should help to establish a museum of science.

One of our vacant rooms is admirably adapted to the beginning of such a museum, and there are intimations that a few small collections, especially suited to school use, will make this room a center of arrangement and distribution. Our building can not house a museum really worthy of the name. But it can, and most appropriately, furnish space for its beginnings, rooms for the meetings of those interested in it, and needed books and papers; and the library can materially help in arousing an interest in it.

We should help local musical interests.

Newark is a musical city, more so than what I have said would lead you to suppose. Possibly our building can not accommodate the musical meetings proper, even of small organizations. But the library can assist in making a collection of music for general use and can keep its collection of books on music and musicians well in advance of interest in them.

Study clubs, literary, artistic or musical, it is of course our function to aid by all the means at hand.

Those of Newark, many of them, meet in our unused rooms, and are given light, attendance, and are supplied with books, papers, lists, and pictures to the limit of the library's resources. This brings to us the good will and the help of women's clubs of all kinds.

We should help charitable organizations of all kinds, like those working for vacation schools, which originated in Newark many years ago, for summer playgrounds and kindred organizations.

These meet in our rooms, day or evening, without charge. And these and others are supplied with light for lantern exhibitions when needed.

We should encourage the development of an interest in art, both fine and applied.

We have tried to do this. Our directors have secured the services of three

of our leading citizens to serve as a Fine arts commission. This commission, primarily appointed to decide if the pictures and other art objects which are offered to the library are worthy of a place in it, has been of the greatest assistance to us in many ways. Chiefly through the efforts of its chairman, Monsignor Doane, they furnished our assembly room on the fourth floor with reflectors for lighting suitably pictures and other objects. Then, with the assistance of a local dealer in pictures, they gathered for us a loan exhibition of fine paintings, almost the first notable public display of the kind ever held in the city, and followed it with another brought together by another expert. To the two came 50,000 visitors; ten times as many as most of the older residents of the city would have said would come to such an attraction. To the same room came the architects of the state for the first exhibition ever held of their drawings and sketches. Here also we held an admirable poster show and a display of fine photographs.

We have received a few gifts of pictures and sculpture. Even the beginnings of an art gallery or museum may be a long time in coming; but our building, so wisely provided with rooms not now needed by the library proper, with such exhibitions and meetings as our friends secure and arrange for us, is sure to raise the thought of a permanent exhibition and a general desire for it. We can not properly house an art gallery worthy of the name; but we can provide space for one in its earlier years and are sure to have that pleasure.

The evening drawing school of the city, part of our public school system, looks to us for books, pictures, and designs of every kind. The work of the day schools in manual training and sewing has already been exhibited on the fourth floor. We shall soon have a lantern, a screen and a supply of slides for illustrating talks on applied art and other topics, at the service, without charge, of all the educational workers of the city.

We are compiling a dictionary of illus-

trations, a universal, iconographic encyclopædia. From all possible sources we gather pictures. We mount a few of the best, those chiefly for special purposes as needed. Most of them are grouped by kinds in simple folders of manila paper. They already number about 20,000, and cover a thousand subjects, though it is hardly more than a year since we began to gather them. We lend them to all comers for many purposes.

Every city is capable of betterment in streets, parks, schools, public buildings, monuments, drives, cleanliness and sanitation.

Newark, like most cities, has an active Board of trade, civic improvement societies, and kindred organizations which give attention to these matters. Meetings of some of these organizations are held in the library, and we try to provide the literature they need. The Board of trade is trying to help the schools to include more study of Newark, its advantages and disadvantages, its beautiful and its unsightly features, its history and its future, in the curriculum of the first seven years. This is with the hope of fostering more rapidly a proper local civic pride in the thousands of children of foreign parents or foreign parentage who come to our school rooms every year. The library tries to keep posted on this work and to provide appropriate literature therefor in advance of the call for it. You can get golden conduct only from golden instincts. Every city is a mirror of its citizens. Cleanliness and beauty in a municipality reflect the manners and taste of its people, not its ordinances, its board of health, and its street department. Beautiful American cities are taking birth today in every school-room in the land or should be.

As I told you, all this being my inheritance and not my creation, I can speak of it with considerable freedom. If I have told the story properly you will have seen that our library tries to present itself as the proper center for so much of the literary, scientific, artistic, industrial, and general social life of our

city as finds association with it sympathetic and helpful. The story, let me assure you, outruns the reality. We try for much, we can do so little. But if I have illustrated clearly the main point of my paper—that a city's free public library is a city's school without age limits, rules or masters; a city's temple without creed; a city's friend, who gives help without reproof or blame, a city's center of enjoyment and good will—then is the story worth the telling even when its anticipations outrun its needs, when its hopes outrun the realities.

Let me add just a word. I have written down a few lines, summing up very broadly a librarian's view of the world, her library, and her work.

Imagine her, alert, vigorous, cheerful, standing on the steps of her library and looking out over her town. She says: Behind me is the *Diary of Humanity*, the *Autobiography of Man*, the record of all that he has done, of all his imaginings, of all his experiments, failure and success alike. Here is the knowledge—lacking which civilization would pass in a day; and here the wisdom which, applied but for a day, would change our imperfect society into one better than we can fashion out of dreams. And all this is set down in skilfully chosen words cunningly put together by the wisest and the wittiest and the most human of our forbears.

Before me is the world, still struggling and striving, condemned to strive and struggle for so many ages—yet to advance so little! Here to gain for a time friendship, love, mutual aid, and that social effectiveness we call civilization. There, to lose all, thus gained, for a day, for generations, through envy, greed, hatred, strife, and all unkindness.

It is mine to help to put into the hands of these my fellows, who have here almost by merest chance selected me for the task, so much of this record of man's strivings, attainings, hopes, prophecies and fears, of this library, of this composite volume, of this veritable Book of Books, as they will take with pleasure, they hoping with me that they may learn from the wisdom of the eld-

ers how to live with more joy, how to work together more happily. I may see no harvest of the seed their library may sow. But can I make this many-volumed work of human history—this Book of Books, to be the every-day book of these my friends? If I can, even in slight degree, I have earned my hire, I deserve my place, I find my labor play, my duty opportunity, and every day too short.

### Library Humors

A librarian who comes in contact with a miscellaneous public finds that not only is truth stranger than fiction, but at times very much funnier. The humors of library work are just sufficient to season with a little spice its rather monotonous character.

Not all the queer mistakes are made by children. One young woman would like "The lay of the last minstrel in prose," and "greeting architecture" is sent for by a high school pupil. Other requests are: "A set of Thackeray's works or any of his poems;" "Romola, a novel about Greece;" "The sequel that comes before this;" "Something by Charles E. Dickens, anything but Sara Screw;" "A play written by Julius Cæsar," and "Something by Walter Scott—have had Ivanhoe and Scottish chiefs." The White aprons of Bacon's rebellion (by Maud Wilder Woodwin) were discovered in "Apron strings." "The cloister on the hearth," though faintly reminiscent of Dickens, was rightly attributed to Charles Reade. "To borrow and to keep," and "Having to hold" were easily guessed, as was "When night-hood was in bloom." A slight mixing of authors and titles resulted in "David Harum, by Churchill," "Three fates, by Marian Harland," and "Power of silence, by Bacheller." "Young maids and cold," or "Old maids and new" might be as good a title as Young maids and old, by Mrs Burnham.

Differential calculus was supposed to be a "good novel," while the young woman who had "waylaid" her card may have been the one who wanted "Berries burned" and "A young girl's

wing," by E. P. Roe. "The melon patch" (Meloony farm), "Mrs Baggs of the cabbage plant," "Mock Twain," "On the castle of the king," "Red story tales" (Red fairy book), "God's hero stories" (Gods and heroes), "Scarlet notes," (Scarlet letter), "A pasty story" (Story of Patsey), and "Story of a bad boy by Tom Sawyer," afford an interesting study of the association of ideas.

"Phyllys," "Jennese Meirideths," "Hart of midlthian, by Scot," "Huckle Bury Fin," "Little Lord fundory" "Lord fontaroy," "Sant niklos," "Gullys travels," "Choir envisiable," "Advictor of a bromy." (Adventures of a brownie). "Nicklas Nickle Be" and "Hemlot of Navarre," are some of the curious mistakes in spelling. "The cat of Bubstes," "The dandelion of St Marks," and "The red skin cowboy" add quite unnecessarily to the catalog of the voluminous Henty.

A request for "Something about a bootblack" was readily understood by the experienced librarian to mean the Lamplighter, and "Tony S. Phillips" was as easily translated Toinette's Philip. A grammar-school seeker after knowledge would like "any book containing about the biographical sketch of Longfellow," and a boy surprisingly inquires on his list "Who's your school master?" while another with a desire for the same book would like "The hostler school master." On another list appear several titles marked "especely." One list written on both sides of the slip says at one lower corner "over," while on the other side appears the cabalistic word "under."

"The biograph of a grizzly" is perhaps not an unreasonable request in these days of moving pictures, and whether one approves of phonetic spelling or not, some knowledge of it proves useful when one is supposed to know that "In a garden" means Enoch Arden.

L. E. H.

It is a plain truth and yet how little understood, that the greatest thing in a city is man himself. He is its end and purpose.—*Channing*.

### What Can the Public Library Do For the College Library?\*

Pauline Gunthorp, Public library, Cincinnati

"It is through the library that the college comes into relation with life universal, vital, and human." The college library is the heart of the college, and as the heart is necessary to set the blood coursing through the various channels of the body, so is it necessary that the college library should be made the vital part of the college and furnish the life blood of the institution. There is scarcely any limit to the amount that could be expended on such a library, that attempts to preserve the best thoughts of all ages and to make companions of the great world thinkers.

The public library is the people's university. The majority of children leave school at the age of 12; a very small per cent of the school children ever enter the college. The public library has a much broader field of work than the college; it must select books not only for the scholar but for the vagrant as well. The aim of the public library is to bring the book to the people and to develop the reading habit. The literature of the public library is mainly literature of refreshment and general information; the literature of the college mainly of knowledge and power, books to furnish stimulus and ground for thought.

The transition from school to college is the transition from youth to maturity and as Prof. Peabody so aptly expresses it the student "passes from the sense of study as an obligation to the sense of study as an opportunity." But we find that although the student comes ready to grasp his opportunities, he is unfamiliar with his tools and needless time is wasted in making him familiar with them.

It took me two years at college to get my bearing, said an earnest man. I didn't loaf, I simply didn't know how to get at things. In those days there was no one to go to for advice. I

had never read anything, had never been inside a public library. I didn't know where or how to take hold.

The experience of this man is the experience of many of the students that come to the colleges today. The professor of English at a leading New England college found that of a division of 40 sophomores, 10 could not give the names of six plays of Shakespeare, 14 did not know the author of *In Memoriam*, 26 could not mention any book of Ruskin, 35 were similarly ignorant of the title of a single poem of either Wordsworth or Browning.

Few of us realize how many people in a large city never come in contact with the library. The library is usually located in the down-town district and depends on its delivery stations and branches to reach the people on the outskirts of the city. We would like our students to come to us more familiar with books, and especially with the catalog and with bibliographic aids. Children who have to get their books through the delivery stations are brought in contact with nothing but the printed catalog and its supplementary lists. The aim of the public library is to get the books to the people, but it seems as if the greater purpose is defeated by making the selection so easy. The child who uses the delivery station is given no opportunity to make the best of his faculties by training himself in using the card catalog and the reference books, or to familiarize himself with a large range of literature by coming in contact with a large number of books. Our students come to us and know of no dictionary but Webster, of no encyclopædia but Britannica; they have never heard of Doole's index nor of the cumulative. In truth, the word bibliography has no meaning to many of them. One student defined bibliography as the science of the Bible (evidently a problem with two unknown quantities). The professors find it necessary to give such bibliographic work as will train the student in the use of his tools. The Cincinnati Public library, realizing the helplessness of the public, has attempted, at the main li-

\*Read before the Ohio Library association at Elyria, Oct. 7, 1903.

brary, to give short talks on the use of the library. Slips were passed to the students in the study room, on which was printed:

**You are cordially invited to attend a 15 minutes talk on reference books and the use of the library. It will be given in the seminar room, 2d floor, at 3.15 p. m.**

The attempt was not successful, the students were over-awed by the formality. Now they are trying to accomplish their end by working with the various students' literary societies and debating clubs, requiring them, under the supervision of one of the library attendants, to plan their own programs and select their references. We wish the public library also, through its work with the branches and schools, would train the children "to get at things" so that by the time they are ready to enter college, the professors and librarian could feel the student to be ready for the advanced work that the college is expected to offer. It seems to me the public library should bear the same relation to the college library as the high school to the college, and that as the student is expected to come to the college from the high school with the fundamental principles well grounded so the student should come from the public library to the college library with an efficient, all round working knowledge of how to use that library.

How can the college library be made of most use to its public? The scholar is working not only for himself but for future generations, and if he is to build he must have the bricks from which to build. It is impossible for a library to keep up with the great output of literature, and a college library can only try to be exhaustively complete in certain definite specialties and is necessarily developed along the lines of its greatest activity. So the college library will depend more and more on coöperation with the public library to supplement its work.

Coöperative specialization, purchasing, cataloging, and lending have been suggested as means by which the public library can aid the college library.

As we have just said the courses of instruction offered by the college control in a large measure the definite specialties that the college library is building up. Knowing the specialties of the college, the public library should avoid purchasing in the same field and so waste money on duplication. There are some departments that naturally fall to the field of the public library, as the useful arts, travel, biography, fiction; the more technical subjects, philology, economics, science fall naturally to the college. There are many subjects that will of necessity, owing to the demand on the part of the constituency of both libraries, be duplicated. American history is such a subject; the college should leave the field of local history to the public library, while they should leave to the college the building up of the collections in ancient, medieval, and European history. The public library should have a good collection of popular books on science but should leave to the college the selection of the purely technical books of that department. The fine arts are apt to fall to the share of the public library unless the college has a special art and architectural schools, and then of course the field would have to be divided.

Coöperative specialization leads us naturally to coöperative purchasing. The public library must of necessity be more of an all round working library and many books that can be found in the other libraries in the city must be duplicated for the public library, but the aim should be when the field of the libraries overlap, not so much to duplicate as to supplement one another. The purchase by the public library of long sets of technical periodicals which are little used by the general public should be especially avoided.

The state, city, and government documents should be found in complete files in the public library rather than in the college library. There are some documents that are indispensable in the college library; among these are the reports of the industrial commission, the labor reports, the educational reports,

and the consular reports. The majority of the documents are used but seldom, so that the question in the college library of shelving and care is greater than the question of demand.

What both public and college libraries need are good general reference books; books of knowledge and power, a representative culture library. But the public library needs more especially books for refreshment, entertainment, and general information so as to build up the reading habit and a liking and a facility in the use of books. The college library has besides its general reference books, technical periodicals in every branch of college work, a careful literary, scientific, and historical collections; a culture library containing the best works in the best editions of all ages including the present; and lastly original sources for research work. How different the fields of work, but each is equally important.

To make the materials in the library accessible to the public, a catalog is indispensable. The interchange of catalogs greatly facilitates the work that can be done. It is only necessary to exchange the author cards, and if these are arranged by classification, the attendant is able to give a fairly accurate account of the material accessible in either of the libraries.

Coöperative reference lists could be made of much value. In preparation of reference lists neither library should confine itself to the materials in its own stack.

Each library should contain a list of the periodicals taken by the other, giving accurate data as to the completeness of the sets so the reader may be informed at a glance whether the desired volume is to be found in the city or not.

The public library can be of most direct use to the college by loaning its books. It is often necessary due to the limited number of copies and the largeness of the classes that the books required for collateral reading have to be put on reserve—that is, they are not allowed to circulate but are to be used in the library. It is often the case that the pub-

lic library has these same books on their shelves or some equally as good, and if these were reserved at the public library for the use of the students in a similar manner, the work of the student would be greatly facilitated. This would be especially helpful for those students who live down town and away from the college. The college is very apt to be located on the outskirts of the city and often hard of access for evening work except for those who dwell on the campus. If the public library does not reserve its books, one student draws the book and it lies idle the greater part of the day, while others are clamoring eagerly to use the same volume. Indirectly the books can be reserved by the professors. It is customary for the public library to give the teachers certain privileges in the use of its books, such as drawing a considerable number of books for a certain period and the professors take advantage of this to secure books for the collateral reading.

The Cincinnati Public library has for the use of the students a seminar room. Here they place on reserve such books as the professors or students may desire. This room is also available for use by the debating and literary clubs of the students.

The college has many public lectures which it tries to make popular enough to reach the mass of the people. The public library could do much to arouse interest in these lectures by posting bulletins relative to the subject to be discussed, and, by displaying what books they have on the subject, in this manner add value to the college by spreading its usefulness.

The Cincinnati Public library has from time to time many interesting exhibitions of rare books, art collections, etc. Could not the library send such exhibitions to the college to be displayed there? There are many students who seldom visit the public library, some on account of lack of time, others on account of the distance. Those exhibitions that have required so much time and skill to prepare could be made doubly useful.

The students would like some attractive romances and books of travel for their wearied brains and tired bodies, so a little while each night they could feel that

The cares that infest the day  
Fold their tents, like the Arabs,  
And as silently steal away.

If the college library was made a delivery station or even a depository for a "home library," a very small, select list of popular books would be made available for the use of the students. We realize the attractiveness of the college library would be increased by the presence of a few popular books; but what professor is going to part with one penny of his already too limited appropriation to purchase them? As college work becomes more and more a technical training rather than a training in the fields of literature and art, the more must be done in an æsthetic line in bringing the student in contact with such books that stimulate his interest in music, art, and literature, familiarity with which is recognized as the requisites of the cultured person.

The discussion in this paper assumes a large public library and a college situated in the same city; but a large per cent of our colleges are not situated in the cities, but in comparatively small towns. The question arises, to be specific, What can the Cambridge public library do for Harvard university? A question we should prefer to leave to the Massachusetts library association to discuss.

When we think of the enormous amount of good the large public library is doing, with its delivery stations, branches, home libraries, traveling libraries, work with the women's clubs, the work with the children, raising up and inspiring all sorts and conditions of men, we feel we were adding the last straw by asking assistance for the college if we did not know that good diffused by diffusion is ever more intense.

Material prosperity is only a means to an end, that end being the happiness and elevation of mankind.

### The State Library Organizer\*

L. E. Stearns, Wisconsin Library commission, Madison

Of all positions in the library world, that of a state library organizer is the most varied. It is never attended by drudgery, as there is constant change. The magazine, the *World's work*, recently contained an article which purported to be a record of a day's work in the life of a modern librarian. In a review of the same which appeared in the *Library journal*, the caustic comment was made that the account was unreal and that the events therein revealed were more likely to have extended over a period of weeks than over a brief 24 hours. It is this very fact—the fear that what might be related would brand the relator as a second Munchausen and her reputation for veracity be ruined forever—that has kept one library organizer from ever recording in cold type the details of her many experiences. One night she will be found in response to urgent appeal addressing a mass-meeting in an opera-house on the subject, Browntown's greatest need, her approach having been heralded by enthusiasts with posters causing her to feel somewhat like a three-ring-under-one-tent performer. Again she will be found driving across the country on a stormy, wintry night to address a small assembly in a log school house in some little hamlet, on the value of good books. Again she is improvising a constitution for a free library association. As she journeys from town to town, her valise is filled with books, good, bad, and indifferent, book-reviews which she reads or skims that she may advise intelligently concerning purchases. She journeys about with the One woman or the Master Christian, though they are of doubtful propriety in library company. She warmly welcomes the Virginian or John Percyfield and sighs for more like them. Rolls of library plans are carried and reports upon them are sent off when there is a bit of rest time from travel.

Lists of titles such as the Basis of the

\*Part of an address before the Ohio Library association, Oct. 7, 1903.

Branchiostegite, which the inexperienced find difficulty in classifying, are forwarded to her for correct numbers at way stations far removed from Dewey or Cutter manuals. She may perchance be on her way to some town to plead with a body of councilmen for an appropriation for library purposes. If successful in this and in the appointment of a library board, she will then confer with the members as to the management of the institution, its future policy, and all the necessary details of administration. She will emphasize the importance of securing trained or experienced service at the very outset; but where this is impossible the organizer will assist in such matters as the purchase of supplies, that there may be no waste or extravagance in this direction. She will make it her business to keep informed concerning the latest labor-saving devices and the many practical expedients that may be utilized to reduce original expense—usually an important consideration. A knowledge of such little particulars as the best labels and where to get them, together with a recipe for paste, is not to be despised. The proper height of shelving, the most convenient form of desk, the size and height of tables, the best chairs, the best floor covering—all this information will be found of paramount importance. The first book purchase, properly proportioned as to classes and of as high a quality as the community will stand—involves a knowledge of books and editions and prices which comes only through much reading of books and trustworthy reviews, together with an understanding of all the arts and crafts of the publisher and bookseller. The system of classification to be adopted, the various details accessioning, shelf listing and cataloging, the charging system to be put into vogue, what form guarantee to be required of borrowers, etc., all important considerations. Where an inexperienced librarian is employed, the organizer bends every effort from the outset to give the novice a working knowledge that the work may be continued on an intelligent basis.

According to the report given in the Sketches of Ohio libraries, published in 1900, there were 31 public libraries in the state whose collections were neither classified nor cataloged. The organizer would visit such as these to initiate the librarian into the mysteries of Cutter or Dewey, remaining until the one in charge was able to work independently, returning at times to see how the work was progressing and to give additional aid if necessary.

That there is urgent need in Ohio of such an organizer for this particular work may be shown by the report of one library as follows:

In arranging this library, a system of modified Decimal classification has been adopted. To avoid the inconvenience of placing books very different in size but similar as to their contents on the same shelf, each subdivision is again divided into four classes, the first of which contains the volumes below 8 inches, the second those between 8 and 10 inches, the third those of 10 to 14 inches, the fourth those of folio size. Thus in  $3_{30}^{41} 3$  shows the volume between 10 and 14 inches in height, the 4 belongs to the general heading of history, the 1 to the subdivision universal history. The number below is the current number.

And now something as to the qualifications which the library organizer should possess. First, she (and we say "she" advisedly, Mr President) should be a woman of character and fiber. Her soul should be filled with aspirations for excellence, for higher things and she should be stimulated with the right kind of ambition. Her courage should be active, fortitude passive—in readiness to be called upon. She should be imbued with genuine love and zeal for the work; she should be energetic and forceful, and at the same time be patiently persistent, of steadfast purpose and faith. Physically, she should possess good health, able to endure the strain and fatigue of travel. Morally, she should be earnestly altruistic, and should have the true missionary spirit. As for social qualities, she should be at ease with

strangers and should possess tact. Her mental qualities should be those of orderly habit of thought, grouping important points to the exclusion of the unimportant; an excellent memory; accuracy; speed, dispatch and prompt decision in settling vexing points. She should possess executive ability; that is the power to organize and delegate work; to marshall and use the four m's which produce results—the four m's being, materials, machinery, methods, and men. As a scholar she should possess the best education obtainable, with all powers disciplined and ready for use. In cataloging her knowledge of languages will be her chief tools for work. A knowledge of English, German, and French will be found invaluable. She should be a student especially along the lines of literature, history, and sociology.

As a bibliographer she should have a knowledge of books physically—that is, from the outside. She should understand book-maker's work—paper, color, thickness, durability; printing, size and face of type, leading, spacing, margins, ink and press-work; binding, materials, durability, cost.

As for the editor's work, she should become familiar with editions, publishers' prices, comparative merits and faults of paper, printing and binding, indexing and proof-reading.

The library organizer should also have a knowledge of the principles of book-repairing, gilding, lettering, type-writing and duplicating processes. If she can bind books herself, so much the better.

As a library economist, she should have a knowledge of library systems, of the scope and founding of libraries, of local, state, and national library legislation. In these days a thorough understanding of the principles of library architecture is essential, as she will be constantly appealed to by library boards eager to get all help possible in the solution of vexing points. She should make a collection of model library plans and be able to explain their points of excellence understandingly.

But above all else the library organizer should have the "library spirit,"

which is in a word a willingness to help others; for what do we live for, as George Eliot says, if it is not to make life less difficult to each other? Library work is opportunity. That which lifts us, says Emerson, is cheerfulness and courage and the endeavor to realize our aspirations. It is indeed the library spirit that will make her go and go and go, morning after morning, through rain, through headache and heartache to the appointed spot and to do the appointed work and to cheerfully stick to that work long after rest would be so sweet. It is the library spirit that will inspire power of industry, promptitude, method, accuracy, and dispatch in doing work; perseverance, courage under difficulties, cheer under straining burdens, self-control and self-denial. Deeply impressed with the possibilities of her work and with what the profession stands for, she should find her best happiness in her best work—that is, faithful service in humanity. Work done for individual ends, for personal gratification or work done which she would not do if she did not have to—all this is unworthy the modern library organizer. Recognition of the true nature of her work, with a glad acceptance of its responsibilities, will lift her fast and far out of her difficulties and cause her to realize in full measure the joys and power of life.

Letting go the unworthy things that meet her—pretense, worry, discontent and self seeking, and taking loyal hold of time, work, present happiness, love, duty, friendship, and faith, she should so live in all true womanliness as to be an inspiration, strength, and blessing to those whose lives are touched by hers; for as the author of the *Sky Pilot* has said, The measure of a man's power to help his brother is the measure of the love in the heart of him and of the faith he has that at last the good will win. With this love that seeks not its own and this faith that grips the heart of things, he goes out to meet many fortunes but not that of defeat.

Mental as well as physical exercise is needed to make a man out of a boy.

### Library Notes

Melvil Dewey, director New York State library

**025.3 Inexperienced card makers**—At least once a month we receive samples and proposals from unknown people to furnish cards for library catalogs. Most of these samples when subjected to tests, shown by 30 years experience to be necessary to get the best results, prove worthless. If such cards were given to us we should throw them away as a matter of economy rather than use them in our catalogs. Cost of cards is trifling compared with cost of labor in writing, revising, preparing, classifying, arranging, etc. Poor material, irregular sizes, bad erasing qualities and other faults make inferior cards worth less than nothing. A well administered library will not use them as a gift. We have found scores of cases where librarians or trustees not familiar with these facts have been deceived by promises and circulars, and have wasted taxpayers' money in buying imperfect cards. The moral is to get what is known to be right and that can be had now at entirely reasonable prices from makers with long experience and who are familiar with every detail. The card index is a great invention, but is almost entirely ruined by imperfect appliances. To buy an equipment of a novice is like trusting a young physician or oculist. He may do good and he may do harm, but careful people will let them get their experience with others and find it much better economy to pay a little more rather than to be led by apparently low prices to risk serious difficulties.

**025.7 For mounting manuscripts**—The New York state library has 250,000 manuscripts and has been forced to remount many of the old ones to preserve them from destruction. We decided on a sheet 30x40 cm with long edge folded over to 1 cm and holes punched 10 cm between centers. This paper should of course have the maximum durability, as it is used for valuable manuscripts. We at first used Crane's paper, which was wholly satisfactory, but very costly.

The Library Bureau has now made a paper which seems to meet all the requirements equally well at not over  $\frac{2}{3}$  the cost, and we have adopted this for our regular use.

**029.1 Too large paper**—A vice of modern correspondence is the use of too long a line for easy reading. Experience has shown that a line somewhere from 6 to 10 cm, probably about 7 cm, is the easiest for an average eye to read, and newspapers and magazines have adopted it. But instead of using ordinary letter size paper (about 8x10 in.) many people have fallen into the habit of using a quarter sheet of folio ( $8\frac{1}{2}$ x11 in.) which is the largest that can be run through the typewriter, with a resulting typewritten line sometimes three times as long as is consistent with easiest reading. After some years attention to this matter I have concluded that those who understand the importance of these details as affecting sight and comfort in reading should explain it to others and try to induce every one to limit size of letter paper to 20x25 cm, and then to leave a wide margin. It would be possible to write double columns like a magazine, but it is so unusual in manuscript that probably most people will choose the single line with wide margin. Among recent letters received from the Booklovers library and the *Ladies' home journal* I find a line of only 5 cm, but this is too short and suggests a fad rather than a conformity to scientific needs. Any one with sensitive eyes can prove the value of this easily by testing and will find it much easier to read a line less than 10 cm long.

Another absurdity still clung to by some typists who have been carefully taught with old-time textbooks, is spelling out amounts instead of using arabic numerals. The figures take but a small fraction of the space and time occupied by words in reading and writing, catch the eye much more quickly, making it easier to look up points, and in every way are more desirable. The silly notion that a sentence should never begin with figures is giving way in some of-

fices where they frankly print figures if they wish them in a title or at the beginning of a sentence. To persons using shorthand and typewriting as labor-savers, it is a manifest absurdity not to observe so obviously good a rule as the use of arabic numerals for all amounts. Those who might be unwilling to do this in a piece of elegant printing, certainly would not object to it in the hurried correspondence of crowded American business and professional life even if they bar it out from social use where anything that suggests that either time or money is valuable is counted bad form by the ultra fashionable.

**629.1 Wasting papers**—Obviously a reader who leaves sheets or slips with odd notes and numbers on a table should not complain if they are put into the waste basket. In fact if waste baskets are conveniently near each table, as they should be, each reader should throw in what he has done with. But many will not, and the assumption is that they are left behind as people leave papers in cars. For the desk of one of the staff or of a regular reader the rule ought to be that every bit of writing is as sacred as personal correspondence, and if found lying about the desk should be left for the owner to dispose of. Many times results of laborious investigation have been lost because some cleaner or page in zeal for good order has swept into the waste basket sheets which he thought no longer useful. A good rule would be to require the preservation for 3 days of all papers found outside waste baskets. This would require no sorting or examination and would leave room for one who had left valuable notes to reclaim them. The third day any accumulation could be dropt in the basket with good conscience.

**655.53 English spelling in American books**—Certain publishers with a touch of Anglomania show practically that they care more for the preference of the few readers they have in England than for the whole great body of Americans. They disfigure their pages by spelling

*favour, honour, etc.*, restoring the useless French u long since discarded in America. Many comment on this and not a few adopt my own rule not to buy books disfigured with this spelling, so offensive to a thoroughgoing American. Publishers who care more for their little constituency on the other side than for a big one over here should be allowed to publish for them, while people who believe in American spellings should insist that their preferences are entitled to consideration. These same people if they go on will soon be spelling *cheque* and *musick* and giving us a page which, however gratifying it may be to the student of antiquities, will not appeal to those who believe in laborsaving machinery and methods and object to a ball and chain attach to their words on the same principle, tho in a less degree than they would to a ball and chain on their feet. Some publishers have no liking for this British whim and would be glad if those who object to it would make their objections known so that they should have ground for excluding the offensive spelling from their plates. The theory is of course that some Englishmen won't buy a book with American spelling and by using English spelling one set of plates answers for both England and America. The logic of it is that the preference of one Englishman overrides that of 10 Americans; but this discrimination is exactly what some of the 10 Americans are bound to resent. If publishers knew that some on this side would not buy their books because disfigured by this Anglomatic whim they will soon publish for their larger constituency.

A valuable help for catalogers is the list of subject headings for use in dictionary catalogs of children's books prepared by Sadie Ames of the Cleveland Public library, and published by the Carnegie library of Pittsburg, at 15 cents. It is concise, definite, and the preface contains simple rules for headings which make an admirable guide for catalogers.

## Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

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PUBLIC LIBRARIES does not appear in August or September, and 10 numbers constitute a volume.

THE title page and index to Vol. 8 will be enclosed in the January (1904) number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, if present plans are carried out.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES for this month is largely given to reports of library meetings. While at first it might seem that such a number would partake of local interest to the exclusion of the general patron, on second thought it will be seen that such is not the case. The reports of these meetings show more plainly than anything else the growth and progress of library matters in the respective states. To one familiar with the meetings held in these states a few years ago, there is a large degree of progress apparent in the proceedings of the meetings of this year. More and more the work is taking shape along well defined lines of effort, with definite aim and purpose in view, and each year's report sees a larger number of persons, trustees, assistants, teachers, clergymen, architects, and others in similar lines of progressive work taking greater and more intelligent interest in the work and object of the library and the meetings of librarians.

There is room for satisfaction in the progress made, but there is also room for progress still, particularly in certain institutions where the fraternal feeling does not seem to have a place and the motives which govern the course of those in charge are very far removed from what is known as the library spirit.

THE selection of a state librarian for Virginia solely on the grounds of qualifications, caused something of a shock

to those who in that vicinity had hoped that the appointment would be made as a reward of merit in other lines. The grand old "mother of presidents" is to be congratulated on this advanced step in library matters which are fast taking place in the front rank of educational affairs, and the best wishes of library workers everywhere will be extended not only for the success of the state library but for the upbuilding and extension of library influence throughout the state.

John Pendleton Kennedy, who fills the office of state librarian, is spoken of in highest terms, as being well prepared to take up his new duties, and to place Virginia in the ranks of those states whose state libraries are effective, live forces in building up an appreciative, thinking, constituency.

A LITTLE investigation has shown that there is nothing definite or of special value being done in the way of special exhibits of library progress at St Louis next year, by most of the states which have done excellent work in the last decade. This is much to be regretted. The greatest stimulus that library economy has received came from the library exhibits at the World's fair in Chicago in 1893. It will be a deplorable thing if there is no showing of the splendid achievement in library matters of the states in the Louisiana purchase especially. There ought to be definite action taken at once and careful plans made to show both in state exhibits in the general collections and in the state buildings, something of the tremendous strides taken in number, size, growth, and influence of the public libraries in the various states, but particularly in these middle states.

The A. L. A. exhibit will doubtless be a fitting one, but its purpose will be a different thing, and no matter how good it is, it in no wise will take the place of the special state exhibits.

To talk of lack of room for an educational exhibit such as a library display would be, is to miss entirely the purpose of such an exposition. The great

Channing once said: You talk of the prosperity of your city: I know of but one true prosperity—does the human soul grow and flourish here?

How shall we make an exposition of our prosperity if we do not include something that will show the growth of "the people's university"?

THE election of Miss Countryman to succeed Dr Hosmer as librarian of the Minneapolis Public library will be received by librarians generally with profound gratification. Her value in that particular library has long been recognized and it is extremely fitting that she, rather than another, should be chosen at this time to fill the vacancy occasioned by Dr Hosmer's going.

The two things which somewhat mar the pleasure in the appointment are the reduction of the salary of the position by one-third and the failure to appoint some one else to the position of assistant librarian. The first is excused on the ground that Miss Countryman at the head of affairs is an experiment and that experiments are not paid for at the same rates as permanent arrangements. At this distance that sounds like nonsense, but even if there is the remotest ground for such a course, it should be altered at the earliest moment the experiment proves a success, as it surely will. The office of assistant-librarian is declared to be unnecessary now as Miss Countryman can discharge the duties of both, and the salary of one assistant will thus be saved. This is decidedly a wrong position to take in the matter. The reports of the library show an increasing growth, and the assistant-librarian ought to have an increased amount of business. To say that Miss Countryman can fulfill the duties of both places has nothing to offer in justification. She ought not be made to do it even if she can, and as a matter of fact if conditions stand for anything she can not, without a severe strain on herself, which no one has any right to demand of her. If an assistant was necessary for Mr Putnam and for Dr Hosmer, it is not fair to deprive Miss Countryman of one and at a greatly reduced salary as

compared with what has been paid before.

While the library board of Minneapolis has done well in appointing Miss Countryman, the action has not been well done.

THE following is a paragraph going around uncredited, but it is good doctrine for librarians:

When Emerson's library was burning in Concord, says Louisa M. Alcott, I went to him as he stood with the fire-light upon his strong, sweet face and tried to express my sympathy, but he answered cheerily, Never mind, Louisa; see what a beautiful blaze they make. We will enjoy that now.

Suppose that library had been yours or mine? Fancy what a fuss—tears, maybe, or the wringing of hands, or even cursing. You see, we have not reached the heights of Concord philosophy. And most of us never will get that far along. But the lesson of it:

"We will enjoy that now." What else may be done? There is no hope of saving the books. Let us warm our hands in the blaze and get something out of it now. If we worry and fret our loss is the greater. To cry over the loss, to borrow disappointment from the morrow—why that is to multiply the loss by two; to pile on today the sorrows of yesterday.

We can retrieve yesterday today. We can make the destiny of tomorrow today and today only. There is only one day—today.

Yes, that's Emersonian, but men are always to be blest—tomorrow. They are going to be contented and rested "some day." Is it not so?

Whereas the only way to be contented and comfortable and happy is to be contented and comfortable and happy today. And if your library is burning, and you can not possibly save it, enjoy the flames now.

Difficult? Yes. New? No. A greater than Emerson said long ago, Take no thought of (do not worry about) the morrow. Let the dead bury the dead. Live today.

### Exhibits and Special Days\*

Josephine Morton, Public library, Owatonna, Minn.

We all know how children love holidays or days marked by some pleasant incident, how long they remain in their minds associated with everything connected with their pleasure, and it is this trait of human nature which makes the special-day exhibits and bulletins so successful a way of attracting the children to the library.

Pictures, especially bright or attractively mounted ones, all children delight in, so pictures form the essential part of a special-day exhibit; books suitable to the subject are also essential, and anything appropriate to the occasion is a help. With a bulletin on Thanksgiving, for instance, not only every Thanksgiving story, but all historical material to the point, will be freely circulated and read. Of course, at such seasons as Thanksgiving and Christmas all the seasonable material will go out with little effort on the part of the librarian, but bulletins and appropriate decorations add a pleasant feeling of festivity to the library and make it more attractive. With a little preparation in the way of bulletin and books, such occasions as the birthdays of great men like Washington and Lincoln may be easily made the occasion for circulating material about them. A very interesting way of marking the birthdays of memorable men, for whom no bulletins are to be made, comes from the Rochester librarian. A portrait is pasted over the date of each great man's birthday, on a large calendar, which is hung conspicuously in the children's room. If a story hour or talk can be given at the appropriate time it adds greatly to the result.

But the children find the most pleasure in the special exhibits of familiar things. The Bird day, now become so popular, is a great joy to them. To prepare even a small bulletin takes time, thought, and skill, but to prepare for a Bird day demands much painstaking care. To prepare bright and attractive

bulletins; to seek out the birds, alive or mounted, for the exhibit; to choose your books carefully; to advertise skillfully among the children; to interest teachers and parents—this all takes both tact and time, but the results well repay the effort. The Bird day at this library last spring was the most popular of all the special exhibits of the year. The children's room was ready with its bulletins, mounted birds, and books, with canaries singing and wild flowers about on windows and desk, and at nine o'clock the children were admitted. The room was crowded until twelve, and at two was again filled by eager crowds. A talk on the habits of the birds exhibited was listened to with interest, and much intelligence was displayed in the remarks the children were heard making to each other about the pictures and specimens. Almost every book displayed was taken out during the day.

The Indian day held last Saturday is intended as an introduction to and a stimulus of the study of history, especially the history of Minnesota, and is to be followed later by a Minnesota day, when bulletins and objects of historical value will be exhibited. On Indian day the children's room was open all day, but in the morning the exhibit occupied the attention of the visitors. In the afternoon two talks were given. A gentleman first talked about the history of the Indians, and then the English teacher of the high school entertained the children with Indian legends—two strangers being chosen to give the talks, as it was thought the children would consider it a greater treat to listen to some one they were not so much accustomed to as the regular library workers. To assemble them the librarian called the children around her and directed them to seat themselves in a circle on the floor, as about an Indian fire when the peace pipe was to be smoked. This added the touch of interest which delighted the children and prepared them to listen eagerly. The legends told were an adaptation from Docas the Indian boy, and were listened to with breathless attention. The talk on Indians interested

\* Read before the Minnesota Library association, October, 1903.

the larger boys, who were a little too dignified for legends, and it seemed to awaken a new interest in their history studies.

Many children who had not before been to the library were there that day, and many new registrations followed, and this has been found the result of every special effort on the part of the library with special days or story hours.

In our year's experience of bulletin making many lessons have been learned, and the chief is that the simpler the bulletin the greater the effectiveness. A few pictures with a brief note of explanation is much better than many, for if the bulletin is crowded there is a sense of confusion. It is better and less confusing to have several simple bulletins than one crowded one. Then, too, bulletins should be attractive from a distance to gain a closer examination; the shape of the pictures and effect of contrasting colors should be carefully considered from a distance; a good balance should be maintained; a central point to work from is much better than a central line. A bulletin is, in fact, a picture, and should be studied as painstakingly as an artist studies the composition of a picture.

Then another point is that lists of books are almost useless on children's bulletins; if the books are displayed they will be taken, but a title seldom appeals to a child's imagination.

But exhibits and bulletins are perhaps quite as useful to the older readers as to the children. A good list of books illustrated by attractive or suggestive pictures will circulate much more freely than if it has no pictures to attract notice to itself. A bulletin invites curiosity, and then something in the books displayed frequently pleases and the book is taken out and enjoyed. Exhibits of attractive non-fiction books have been a feature of this library for the past year, and the public has come to examine these on first entering the library, so that the non-fiction circulation has steadily increased and the taste of the public been consulted thus unobtrusively and with very little extra trou-

ble, for the exhibits are generally on a variety of subjects—the latest books of general interest, old standard books always of interest, and books of timely interest because of public events.

The exhibit of magazine covers during the summer served a similar purpose of drawing people to the library and so accustoming them to come here that it should be easy to ask for books or to do reference work.

The result of our work with bulletins and exhibits has been decidedly good, and we consider them worth all the trouble and time they require.

### Leopold Delisle

The year just past must be rubricated in the annals of the chief librarian of the Bibliothèque Nationale at Paris, who, although born in 1826, is still in the vigorous activity of his life-work.

In May, 1902, the Société de l'Histoire de France and the Société de l'École des chartes celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of M. Delisle's membership in their bodies, to whose valuable work he had contributed so much. At this time his friends and admirers presented M. Delisle with photographic reproductions of two important manuscripts bearing on the studies to which he had been especially devoted; books seven and eight of the *Histoire ecclésiastique* of Orderic Vital, a twelfth-century manuscript in the Vatican Library (of which only 100 copies were made), and a book of Hours in the Turin Library, which had belonged to the Duc de Berry, brother of Charles V.

On November 5, was also celebrated the cinquantenaire of M. Delisle's connection with the Bibliothèque Nationale. For this occasion the Bureau of the Congrès internationale des bibliothécaires, at whose meetings in Paris in August, 1900, M. Delisle had presided, proposed, with the assistance of subscribers in this country as well as Europe, to prepare a complete bibliography of M. Delisle's works, including his contributions to periodicals and society publications. M. Paul Lacombe, to whom the editing

was entrusted, has produced a very excellent piece of work entitled; *Bibliographie des travaux de M. Léopold Delisle, Membre de l'Institut, Administrateur général de la Bibliothèque Nationale*. It is a goodly volume of over 500 pages octavo, issued by the Imprimerie Nationale, and includes no less than 1889 titles, to which M. Lacombe has added many valuable notes and cross references, and, for frontispiece, there is an excellent heliogravure portrait of M. Delisle. A good index is also provided, and a neat compliment to Madame Delisle is the list of her publications.

On March 8, last, at the Bibliothèque Mazarine, the Bureau du Congrès international des bibliothécaires held a jubilee reunion in honor of M. Delisle, and, in response, and as a souvenir of this fête, he has now issued (privately printed) a *Fac-simile de livres copiés et enluminés pour le roi Charles V.* This is a beautiful quarto volume containing 14 reproductions of specimen pages from manuscripts in the library of Charles V., with some 20 pages of explanatory text. In the preface M. Delisle regrets that he can not promise a second edition of his *Cabinet des manuscrits de la Bibliothèque Nationale*. This work, which forms part of the collection: *Histoire générale de Paris*, has been of such great value to historians and bibliographers that a new edition, with the benefit of 40 years' improvement in photography, would be welcomed.

In the domain of palæography we owe much to M. Delisle, and it is under his supervision that the recent volumes of the great series, *Recueil des historiens des Gaules et de la France* have appeared, but it is as the able administrator since 1874 of the great National library of France that his services have been most distinguished, and it is an appropriate recognition of his jubilee year, as well as an honor to the library profession, that his portrait should form the frontispiece to this year's issue of that representative annual of the learned world, *Minerva*.

B. A. FINNEY.

University of Michigan, Sept. 17, 1903.

### **Brown's Manual of Library Economy**

Brown, J. D., *Manual of library economy*. L. Scott Greenwood & Co. 1903. D. 476 pp. 169 il. 8s. 6d. net.

Our English brethren have, during the past few years, started some three series of books on library technics, and this seems to be the beginning of a fourth series. It is the most ambitious of all the treatises on library economy, if we except our own government report of 1876, which, notwithstanding its age, is still indispensable for the study of United States library management.

We may consider Mr Brown's book from two points of view—the English and the American. As an epitome of the best English practice it is unrivaled. It is laid out in nine divisions as follows: Foundation and committees; Staff; Buildings; Fittings and furniture; Book selection and accession; Classification and shelf arrangement; Cataloging, indexing, filing; Maintenance and routine work; Public service.

These divisions are duly chaptered, and in addition there is the system of consecutively numbered sections extending to 572. The references in the index are to these sections instead of to the pages, bringing the references closer to each subject than if the page system had been used. At the end of each chapter is a reference list of authorities, for the most part limited, of course, to the technical books and journals. We may be proud of the proportion of references to the United States literature—in some cases one-half, in some cases two-thirds, and in a few cases practically all of the literature cited. The illustrations are from drawings or from photographs, and are plentiful and excellent. Paper, ink, press-work and binding are good. As an exponent of English library practice it is full and complete, touching on all their problems and going into details wherever necessary.

It appears that the English library laws are somewhat complicated and liable to faulty construction at the hands of local authorities. The official English library journal always has a

place for opinions on the library law by their honorary solicitor, on questions submitted by library authorities, showing a most lamentable want of coöperation on the part of other local authorities and a disposition to hamper the work of free public libraries. Mr Brown gives full details about legislation and then devotes considerable space to payment of loans made by the libraries under the library acts. The division on buildings is good, as is that on fittings and furniture, including the much vaunted, much abused indicator.

Then follow chapters on printed and manuscript catalogs and a well-illustrated chapter on methods of displaying manuscript catalogs. From there he passes to chapters on book binding, rules and regulations, issue methods, and other detailed subjects, and closes his work by an able chapter on safeguarded open access. Mr Brown gives a very temperate and candid discussion of all the topics, avoiding all rancor and bitterness, and presenting a fair and candid account of the best English library practice. His retrospect is good and his outlook optimistic. The whole book teems with an argument for an abolition of the penny in a pound rate of taxation which is levied on the rentable value of real estate and not on the gross value as in the United States. Owing to this difference in values our two mills on a dollar tax in some states produces more than the English penny in the pound tax.

The work is, on the whole, most able, sound, and exceptionally well adapted to English library use for which it is written. Viewed from an American standpoint it gives an up-to-date picture of what an English library is, what it should not be, and what it wants to be. As before noted, the difference in ideas as to public libraries in the two countries is as decided as can be. Here a free public library supported by taxation receives every possible aid and encouragement from local authorities, and is never, under any circumstances, taxed or attempted to be taxed. The number of laws, dating back to 1855, for Eng-

land, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, now in force, exceeds that of any of our own states, and in many of our Mississippi Valley states an area equal to all the various provinces above named is governed as to library purposes by one or two pages of a statute book.

The English libraries have to account rigorously for each farthing received from the government, on government forms, and this seems to entail an unnecessary amount of bookkeeping. But the English librarian likes to keep books, judging from the number of forms given or suggested by Mr Brown. No less than 20 different records of one kind and another in this form are found in the work, of which six refer to the accessioning department. The recommended building plans come very close to our idea of a small public library building, inasmuch as Mr Brown is such an exponent of safeguarded open access. The chapter on indicators is interesting to some of us who have never been favored except with a working model of a view of those celebrated machines. In the chapter on book selection, section 263, Mr Brown takes exception to some remarks of the reviewer which appeared in Mr Dana's Library primer. These remarks were written especially for small United States libraries and we have been careful in writing this review always to keep in mind the localism of Mr Brown's book, written as it is by an English librarian for English librarians. Much undue and unnecessary criticism of the work of our English brethren would be avoided if all took into consideration these facts. Their accession methods seem to be unnecessarily complicated, but not more so than many of our older American libraries. It is doubtless a revelation to some of us that English libraries are not classified as are all of our newer libraries. However, there are dozens of the much-vaunted town libraries of New England, and especially of Massachusetts, which are in no better condition in that regard than are the English libraries, though the majority of our libraries throughout the

country are classified. The work of classification and rearrangement of a small (5000v.) library is comparatively a simple and easy matter, and can be done in a few months, with suitable assistance, without closing the library or inconveniencing the readers.

As noted before, the section on cataloging contains illustrations of the different methods of displaying manuscript catalogs. Even the much-vaunted and now thoroughly defunct Rudolph index is there portrayed. We would most respectfully suggest to Mr Brown an improvement on his method of using loose sheets in indexing. This is, as he says, a decided advance on the old plan of writing on sheets or in a commonplace book and then cutting into slivers and rearranging them. Our V size slips 5 x 7½ cm. make a good indexing slip, and it results in a card catalog of entries, saving much time and labor.

The chapters on bookbinding and repairing are full of suggestions and ideas which will be very helpful on this side of the water. In section 400 we recognize our old friend the Maxson book-mark, strayed a long way from home and nameless, but still as good as ever. In section 419 we find some 37 regulations for a supposedly small public library. This equals that of some of our older libraries.

Mr Brown's chapter on issue methods, taken with his chapter on indicators, shows what he hopes for English libraries. He favors indicators mainly for fiction and gives much space to the various card methods of charging.

Better things are coming judging from the way open access is being adopted, from the outlook for abolition of the penny rate, of accession of new blood in their association, and of the number of good books on library administration they have produced in late years. In closing, we wish to congratulate Mr Brown on writing the best work on library economy for English librarians of English libraries which has yet appeared.

G. E. WIRE, LL. B.,

Worcester County Law library, Worcester, Mass., Oct. 21, 1903.

## American Library Association

### Committee appointment

Messrs Wellman and Wright, original appointees on the committee on relations with the book trade, decline to serve. Names of Mr Dana and Dr Steiner have been substituted, each one having accepted the position.

### St Louis conference

Date, latter part of October, probably the first full week after the 15th.

Headquarters in the Inside Inn will probably be selected, it being the only adequate hotel inside the grounds. This will entail an extra charge of 50 cents per day for admission to the grounds but it will be convenient and allow of easy visiting between hotel and grounds at all hours and prevent long journeys back and forth.

### Program

Of such a general character as will be suitable to a conference designed to be international in character. No more than one session per day will be held.

J. I. WYER JR, Sec'y.

## Library Meetings

**Chicago**—The library club held its November meeting on the evening of the 12th, in the Fine Arts building, over 60 members and friends being present. The address of the evening was delivered by Miss Ahern, editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, on Reference work in public libraries. The general premise was that reference work was the most important in a library, the one on the inside being helped by searching out new things, the one on the outside being helped by the particular bit of information he desires. The attendant must remember that he is a public servant whose duty is willing, courteous service and must not feel that the public owes him gratitude. He should have time during hours to study reference works and keep abreast of new material, since to be efficient he must keep up with the times, yet should not be asked to spend his recreation hours in study. The open-shelf system—if properly labeled and arranged, was de-

clared to be of great service to both the attendants and the public at large.

Miss Ahern had obtained written statements from the librarians of a number of representative libraries concerning what work was being done and what should be done in reference work in public libraries, and distributed them to different members, who read the reports as called for during the lectures.

Following are extracts from some of the reports sent in:

The making of short, well annotated reading lists, rather than lists which cover a great mass of undigested material is more helpful; also the making of lists of special magazine articles.

We keep 5000 to 6000v. on open shelves on requests sent in from schools, clubs, labor unions, and other organizations. If the best book on a subject is not at hand, supply some article to fill time until the proper material can be gathered. In that way several people can be kept supplied with material instead of having to have long waits before receiving any attention. In scientific works, when a new edition is received, the old edition has the following legend stamped upon the title page and last page of contents: There is a later edition of this book in the library, thus insuring the student knowledge of the best edition.

Most reference librarians know reference books but not the principal books on a subject. We give time in library hours for our attendants to study special subject lists and become familiar with the literature of various subjects.

The willingness to help is all important; and don't be afraid of giving too much help. People often do not know exactly what they do want and it is the librarian's business to draw them out and supply what they really desire.

Students request separate tables to keep their books out from day to day, a thing which can not be done at a general table. We make a classed catalog of material in government documents and pamphlets, index government maps. We keep club and society reading lists up to date by indexing important ar-

ticles in magazines and new books, and keep newspaper clippings. As our work is for the entire state as well as our city, we keep count of all conventions and publish lists on their special topics also.

Our boys and girls are taught to use the reference room and not seek reference work in the children's room. The museum we find is a great aid in our work.

We believe in open shelves, and the teaching of the use of indexes in books, of the library catalog and general indexes. Keep a card catalog portrait index, club lists, and lists for special days. Have shelves devoted especially to the books required for current events, for club and normal school lists. One of the Elbert Hubbard posters bearing the words: Be gentle and keep your voice low, will do far more than all the no-talking signs imaginable.

We divide our reference querists into three classes: students, club women, other information seekers. Find out in which class your inquirer belongs and fill his wants accordingly. Keep in touch with current events. Our staff has a round table for that purpose, and also spends an hour each week in the study of bibliography. A file of all reference lists recorded on p slips, newspaper clippings and a file of all local papers and one New York paper are kept.

Special collections are made on subjects of general interest, and lists of poems used by school children are made. Teachers have subject lists reserved, and lists of subjects asked for are kept on file as well as record of books in which subject is found. One should begin with the children in teaching the use of the library; the staff should have meetings on reference work, and the loan desk attendant should help in doing reference work with borrowers.

Miss Elliott, of Chicago Public library, then spoke on the varied character of applicants for assistance in reference work, since the public library belongs to the people and to all classes, from the bootblack to the college professor. She

spoke of the value of the portrait index made and used in the Chicago Public library, also the frequent calls for lists of national flowers, colors, and birth stones. Much work is done in connection with special subject lists made by teachers for use in their classes, and teachers are allowed to take special books to their schools. After some general discussion the meeting adjourned.

RENÉE B. STERN, Sec'y.

**Connecticut**—The Library association held its fall meeting in Suffield, on October 22, with Mr Trumbull of Norfolk in the chair.

An address of welcome was given by Judge Smith, and was responded to by our president. Mr Trumbull further remarked that he had a suggestion to make as he first took the chair as president. This was that the association undertake to compile a bibliography of Connecticut. A motion was made by Mr Godard that the president appoint a committee of 10 to discuss the matter, and report at the next meeting.

An act concerning free public libraries, which was passed in May, was discussed by Mr Godard and Mr Whitney. It provides for the additional yearly appropriation of \$2000 voted by the last legislature for the extension of the work of the Connecticut Public library committee, which now has 70 free town libraries under its charge, besides traveling libraries, traveling pictures, and a salaried visitor and inspector, who is a trained librarian. Miss Hewins gave an account of work done under the act, 18 libraries having been visited by herself and Mrs Johnson, the inspector.

An interesting paper was given by Miss Hewins on A librarian's vacation, in which she told of the increase in her pleasure on her visit to Florence, Italy, by the knowledge she had gained previously in literature and the various references in poetry and fiction to the places visited on her trip.

The closing paper of the morning was by Mrs Samuel R. Weed of New York. Her subject, Treasure-house of historical records, was a plea for the preservation in town libraries of the valuable

letters and historical documents which may be found in the attics of every Connecticut town, and should be kept as carefully as manuscripts are kept in the British museum, or the letters of Columbus in Genoa. It is something to be thankful for that our ancestors knew how to write and keep journals. The difference between the Dutch settlers of New York and the pioneers of New England was the difference between those who knew enough to keep family records in writing and those who did not.

Immense strides have been made in 20 years in New England and the Middle States in the collection and preservation of historical material. Such work as this is what the smaller historical associations should do.

The place for manuscript records and letters is in public libraries. Encouragement should be given by legislation or town aid for manuscripts, records, data, all matters regarding churches, etc. We can judge from loan exhibitions what historical treasures there are in towns. Church records have been stored away in garrets or eaten by rats. Many are in the possession of elderly people who would entrust them to a library. Mrs Weed recommended systematic search for papers of historical value. We should study concentration of interests through making libraries depositories, and commit to writing all possible information about families, events, etc., before it is too late, and fill our shelves with historic records.

After the close of the session the association visited the beautiful Kent Memorial library, which has a large reference and periodical room, a fine collection of books, and a loan exhibition of photographs of Egypt. Miss Stedman, the librarian, and several of the directors did the honors.

At the opening of the afternoon session announcement was made of the committee on Bibliography of Connecticut as follows: Mr Godard, Mr Gay, Mr Bates, and Mr Carleton of Hartford; Mr Van Name, and Mr Stetson of New Haven, Mr James of Middletown, Miss Heydrick of Southport, Mr Whitney of Brand-

ford, and Miss Sperry of Waterbury.

George S. Godard, of the State library, spoke on Connecticut public documents, saying that there are many documents whose limit has not yet been set, and others whose language is unknown; that we love Connecticut, even if we hate public documents, and that we should therefore reserve a little love for Connecticut public documents. They may be divided into legal and departmental, the first including the laws of the colony and state, and special acts, governing special places, or of a private character, which are never superseded. There are 45 departmental reports published by the state of Connecticut.

Willis K. Stetson, of the New Haven Public library, gave an account of some experiments in bookbinding, recommending English cloth in various colors, and also the duro-flexile binding which is put on in England. Mr Stetson recommended that the A. L. A. should systematically investigate and report on different styles of binding, and exhibited books which had stood an unusual amount of wear.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Kent Memorial library and the inhabitants of Suffield for their hospitality, and the meeting adjourned, the time and place of the next session being left to the executive committee.

LAURA F. PHILBROOK, Sec'y.

**Indiana**—The twelfth annual meeting of the Indiana Library association was held in the state house, Indianapolis, Thursday and Friday, October 1-2.

The President, Eva Fitzgerald of Kokomo, made a few brief opening remarks, and after the necessary routine business was disposed of, the report of the work of the Public library commission for the year was listened to with great interest.

The report was prepared by Miss Hoagland, corresponding secretary for the commission and library organizer for the state, but was read by J. P. Dunn, president of the commission, owing to the absence of Miss Hoagland, who was unable to attend the meeting, because of illness.

The report reflects great credit upon the commission. The work has been along definite lines, looking toward the improvement of existing libraries, the organization of new public libraries, the extension of the traveling library system, the instruction of librarians, and a general awakening of a healthy library sentiment leading to an enlightened public opinion throughout the state regarding the importance of libraries and their right administration. This has been accomplished through visits, talks before farmers' institutes, library schools and individual instruction in the commission's office, library institutes, and legislation.

The use of the traveling libraries shows a marked increase over last year, the number sent out from November, 1901, to October 31, 1902, being 72, and from November, 1902, to October 1, 1903, being 204.

The commission is especially to be congratulated on the success of the library school conducted at Winona Lake from July 6 to August 14. The class numbered 26, all librarians or assistants, or those under appointment to positions. Anna Phelps, of Pratt university, was the principal instructor, but lectures on various subjects closely related to library work were given by Prof. Landison, of the State normal school, Terre Haute; Miss Stanley, of the Brookline (Mass.) Public library; Amos Butler, of the Board of state charities; Miss Ahern, editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES and librarians from various parts of the state. The commission is so much encouraged that it is making larger plans for next year at the same place.

Library institutes were held during the year at South Bend and New Albany.

Indiana has had another year of good fortune in donations for libraries, Mr Carnegie having made eleven gifts aggregating \$175,000. In addition to this there have been donations from other sources to the amount of \$106,500, so that last year the amount contributed to libraries reached \$200,000 in the state.

This report was followed by an interesting discussion of various points, especially the summer school, and the consensus of opinion was strongly in favor of the work.

Mr Dana of Newark, N. J., being present, was called upon and expressed himself in very complimentary terms of the work of the commission and library work in general throughout the state. He said he did not see why we "should send for anyone from the frazzled edge of the United States to come out here to talk on library matters."

The afternoon session was devoted to Library trustees. J. F. Tomlin, superintendent of schools of Shelbyville, read an interesting paper on the Personnel of the library board.

He began with the purpose of the public library. In considering the board of directors he said it should be borne in mind that two-thirds of every community are children; that their needs are greatest, and they are the best customers of the public library. As the library is an educational agency and its work must be encouraged through the schools, he thinks the best possible management can be attained through the school board. Their sympathies are nearest the children.

Mr Alexander of Marion followed Mr Tomlin. He believes in small boards, composed of business men, and they should attend only to the business of the library, leaving all details to the librarian, giving him or her more power. He advocates better paid librarians, consequently the most capable ones attainable.

Mr Henry said the chief thing for the board to do is to select the librarian, then give him or her absolute power.

There was a lively discussion of the topics emphasized by these addresses, especially that of book committees.

Mr Tomlin favors a committee selected from the best people of the community, the most intellectual and those doing work in special lines of study; but a majority believed that the librarian should have almost exclusive power to select books, being free to call upon

whomsoever she might choose for assistance in various lines.

On Thursday evening J. C. Dana gave a delightful address on A certain library. (See page 449.) It was full of interest and ideas for the librarians present. There were a number of teachers and of the laity present who enjoyed the address equally well. In the informal talk that followed, many questions were profitably discussed.

The first thing at the Friday morning session was a talk by Mr Henry on the exhibit of Indiana libraries at the St Louis exposition. Some suggestions were made as to the nature of the exhibit, which must necessarily be largely of the material side of the question. He urged the coöperation of all librarians in order to secure success.

The discussion of the topic Library administration, from various points of view, was then opened by Mrs Gruwell of Marion, who represented the librarians. She began with the board, who should be broad-minded, intellectual, and far-sighted men. Then she described the ideal librarian, who should have individuality, originality, and personality.

Rev. W. M. Tippy of Indianapolis represented the public in the discussion. He divided the patrons of the library into three groups—children, the general public, and those pursuing special lines of study.

He said that parents were often at a loss to know what books were best for their children to read, and suggested that libraries furnish them with lists of books suitable for children.

Brief summaries of books would be valuable and helpful to the general public in making their selections.

The library should stimulate and assist readers in special lines of study in every possible way, giving them a special room where practicable.

He made a strong plea for open shelves.

Miss Tutt of South Bend gave the point of view of the assistant, which can not differ greatly from that of the librarian.

The afternoon session was devoted to reports of committees, discussion and vote on revision of the constitution.

The committee on resolutions reported the following: Resolved, that in the death of Elizabeth Day Swan the Indiana Library association has sustained a most serious loss, her charming presence and wise opinions being an important part of each meeting.

The thanks of the association were extended to the Bobbs-Merrill company for the artistic programs furnished.

The officers were congratulated upon the excellence of the program, and especially upon having secured Mr Dana's presence.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Arthur Cunningham, Terre Haute; vice-president, Mrs Jennie Jessup, Laporte; secretary, Mrs Ida Gruwell, Marion; treasurer, T. F. Fitzgibbon, Columbus.

The question of revision of the constitution was then taken up for final action. The amendments were taken up by sections and discussed at length, the discussion at times being quite spirited. The vote resulted in the defeat of all the proposed amendments except one, that of Art. 4, Sec. 4, and that pertained to a change in the wording only.

An invitation was extended to the association to hold its next meeting in the Indiana building at the St Louis exposition, but it was not considered practical to do so, so the association adjourned to meet in Indianapolis next October.

BERTHA F. POINDEXTER, Sec.

**Iowa**—The fourteenth annual meeting of the Iowa Library association was held at Marshalltown, Oct. 5-7, 1903.

The president, State librarian Brigham, gave a scholarly and interesting address on a World of books, showing how large a factor in life they are.

The official reports showed library conditions in the membership and throughout the state to be in a flourishing condition.

The paper by Miss Tobitt of Omaha,

on Expenditure of library funds, received much consideration from the meeting. The discussion of the proportion of funds between books and maintenance brought out much discussion. Her judgment was that not more than 25 per cent of a library's income could well be put into books. The most valuable part of a library being the opportunities it gives for obtaining and disseminating information, an excessive expenditure of books, without thorough scientific administration, was money thrown away. She also advocated a preliminary budget for the year. [Miss Tobitt will present the subject in PUBLIC LIBRARIES shortly.—ED.]

Capt. Johnson urged greater accuracy and promptness, in furnishing library statistics to the state authorities, on the part of librarians. The next paper was a most interesting one on Organization by Fanny Duren of Eldora.

The organization of a library implies a comprehension of the power concealed in a collection of books; a knowledge of the community patronizing a library; the adjustment of this power to meet the needs of the community. This adjustment necessitates a careful classification of the library, and the making of certain records in order that the librarian may know what material is at her command, and where that material may be found at any given moment.

The essential records are the accession book, the business record, giving a history of the growth of the library; the shelf list, a card index of the books, arranged by subject; and the public dictionary catalog. An easily operated charging system should be established, which will show at any time where a book is, who has it, when it was taken out. The small library, thus equipped, administered by an efficient librarian, will prove the power of organization for the accomplishment of great ends, even though the means be small.

An interesting discussion followed on the necessary steps in the erection of a library building. An interesting paper was the one by Prof. Shambaugh, of the

State university, on the Work of the State Historical society.

Miss Wheelock, librarian of the Grinnell Public library, presented the work of the Iowa Summer school of library training. During the three years' history of this school, 85 students have been enrolled, 68 being from Iowa and the remaining 17 from Illinois, Nebraska, and Ohio. Thirteen have returned for a second year, either in cataloging or children's work. At least 25 of the libraries of Iowa have been represented in the school, either by the librarian or assistants. A reunion of the Summer school students was held in the parlor of the Pilgrim hotel after the adjournment of the morning session and an organization of the society of the Iowa Summer library school was effected, with Ellen Stocker of Muscatine as president, Mrs Florence G. Anders of Iowa Falls vice-president, and Mary E. Wheelock of Grinnell secretary-treasurer. It was decided to hold a reunion each year in connection with the Iowa Library association.

A. T. Cooper of Cedar Rapids read a fine paper in proof of What the library is doing to justify its support by public tax. He stated that if the public library is honestly striving to put good books into the hands of the citizens of all ages, and to furnish them good facilities for study and research, its support by tax is amply justified.

He showed how it is supplementing the work of and coördinated with the public schools, and expressed the hope that in the very near future the library would have charge of a room in each school building wherever there is a library.

The library boards, he said, are employing educated, refined, and trained librarians and assistants, are furnishing well-located, well-furnished and well-heated, lighted, and ventilated rooms for the use of the library and its patrons and are using every endeavor to bring the attention of the masses to its facilities and advantages.

The trustees and librarians are making the free public libraries a people's uni-

versity, where all branches are taught, including the useful arts and all grades, from the kindergarten to the post graduate course, and where the citizen remains in school through his natural life from the cradle to the grave.

Mr Cooper traced the development of libraries in America, and pointed out that the history of libraries justified the expense.

At the evening meeting J. C. Dana of Newark, N. J., gave a splendid address on Library opportunities. [This will appear in PUBLIC LIBRARIES later.—ED.]

**Massachusetts**—The fall meeting of the Bay Path Library club was held Thursday, October 22, in the Congregational chapel, at Ware, Mass., with the president, Miss Tarbell of Brimfield, in the chair. Besides Ware, the places represented in the attendance were Brimfield, Brookfield, North Brookfield, West Brookfield, Sunderland, Greenwich Village, Gilbertville, Hampden, Webster, Williamsburg, Belchertown, Shrewsbury, Leicester, Lancaster, Palmer, Monson, Warren, Enfield, Holyoke, Springfield, Hartford, Conn., and Brooklyn, N. Y.

The morning session was opened by Henry K. Hyde, a member of the trustees of the Ware library, who welcomed the club.

The first subject considered in the morning program was that of Bulletins, by F. G. Willcox, librarian of the Holyoke library. He said in part:

Bulletins are a means of advertising. Some question whether advertising is in keeping with the dignity of the library, but so long as the object of usefulness to the community is kept in view, the dignity of the library will take care of itself. So many other things clamor for the attention of the public that the library must adopt methods that will call the attention and hold the interest of the people to accomplish its useful educational ends. The term library bulletin covers many things, from a picture-poster on the wall to printed leaflets for general distribution. The latter should contain the lists of new

books in the library; also, if it can be afforded, other things will be included. It should contain notes concerning the best books, but these should be simply characterizations, not reviews.

Mr Willcox showed specimens of different forms of book bulletins, and told what the Holyoke library had done in the matter of bulletins. Following Mr Willcox, librarians of smaller libraries spoke of inserting the lists of new books in the local papers, and in the annual town reports.

The subject, Library problems in the town and the rural community, was opened by Miss Shepard, of the Springfield city library. Miss Shepard said in part: The fundamental problem is how to make our libraries most useful. Just so far as we librarians are interested in our people will they be interested in and use the library. After we have won the hearts of the people, we can learn their needs. Let us keep rules as far as possible in the background. They should be few and flexible. Above all, they should never be displayed to discourage visitors. Privileges, rather than restrictions, should be emphasized. Let us study carefully local conditions and adapt our service to them. The usefulness of the library is greatly increased by having the people come directly to the shelves. The barrier of a long desk between you and the people is not conducive to a mutual feeling of friendliness. Liberality in allowing as wide use as possible of our library in Springfield has solved some problems. It is often important to lend books, on certain conditions, outside of the boundary of the city or town. The librarian should have a personal acquaintance with the teachers in the town, with the school superintendent, should know the school policy of the town, state, and country. Having interested the pupils in the library, the library should make special provision for the young people. To meet the needs of a city or town, it is necessary to have places besides the main library for the distribution of books. Miss Shepard then told of the

different places from which books are distributed in Springfield.

In the afternoon, the subject of library problems was continued by Mrs A. J. Hawks of Williamsburg, president of the Western Massachusetts library club. Mrs Hawks spoke from her experience as librarian in meeting needs that are not always considered: such as, assisting the Sunday school, by placing all the books on the lesson topic where teachers and pupils could get them Saturday; helping to make the meetings of the Y. P. S. C. E. more interesting by furnishing lists of biographies of some of the great missionaries, of books explaining customs and conditions prevailing in the countries where these missionaries labored, and of books on hymnology. The minister was assisted in a talk upon Japan; not only by books owned by the local library, but by others containing fine illustrations borrowed from Forbes library. A set of pictures of scenes in Japan loaned by the Woman's education association was hung on the walls of the chapel of the church, and greatly enjoyed by the people. But while things are done for the people who live in the center of the village, the farmers who live three or four miles away may not be seen in the library, and they have good excuses to offer for not taking books. The solution of this problem has come through the coöperation of teachers and the librarian. The hardest problem is to keep the interest of boys in their early teens. Pictures which have been loaned have been a great help here. The boys have been invited to come and arrange them and have been interested to invite their friends to come to see them.

In the talk upon Some recent books most desirable for our libraries, Lawrence Parker of Warren and Middleboro gave a review of Gifford's Practical forestry, and urged the importance of provision by libraries of books on forestry on account of the great need of attention to this subject. Mr Parker recommended other books on the subject, and also the bulletins published by the government.

In introducing the next subject the president called attention to Mr Dana's paper on Fiction in the public library, read before the meeting of the A. L. A. at Niagara, in which he speaks of the failure of libraries to keep on hand a good supply in attractive condition of the novels which time has tried and pronounced good, and in which he shows by certain statistics how little such novels are read compared with recent ephemeral fiction; so that in a list of authors which led in patronage, Dickens followed the first 20, and Hawthorne was 59 in the scale.

**Nebraska**—The records of no meeting of the Nebraska Library association could show a better filled or well-rounded program than those of our ninth might show.

The meeting was held in the roomy, attractive auditorium of the Carnegie library building in Fremont, Neb., on October 7 and 8.

We warmly welcomed many visitors and listeners from among women of the State federation of Women's clubs in session in the city during the same week.

Interest was shown to this extent—that one woman attended the meeting by driving on two successive days from a small town 14 miles from Fremont.

The opening session was pleasantly addressed by Ross L. Hammond, of the Fremont public library board, and Miss Tobitt, president of the association.

The two hours were almost entirely taken up with the reading and active discussion of two of our best papers, the first on Selection of children's literature, by Margaret Palmer, and Preservation of books by Miss Hagey.

Miss Templeton discussed Miss Palmer's paper, emphasizing that libraries buy attractive books, do not give children classics that they can not read in full syllable language, have picture books and poetry for very little folks—some training and culture of the imagination with fairy tales is necessary. A little observation will disclose that the fictitious and dramatic are deeply rooted in their nature. In their tendency for

imagining and feigning and playing at Might be and Make-believe in strangest scenes and characters, children are nearer to nature than we are wont to suppose. There must not be unwise repressions, however. Miss Bullocks thinks there is great danger of over-stimulation of this child-imagination and the nerves. For often the child doesn't grasp the intention of the author.

Miss Hagey read a practical, helpful paper upon Binding, preservation, and mending, treating her subject under these three heads. She began with a detailed account of the various leathers, with their process of manufacture and their peculiar value as bindings. She gave the accepted rules for good binding and emphasized the fact that the cheapest were generally in the end most costly. Miss Hagey recounted the multitudinous little observances necessary to prolong the life of the book and gave accurate instructions for mending—making it clear at just what stage in a book's life it should be sent to the binders instead of to the mending table.

Following the program the members of the association were the guests of the Fremont Business men's club in a drive about the city, paying a visit to the normal school of Fremont, the largest in the state, and the bindery of the Hammond Printing Co. In the business session of which preceded the program of the morning the reports of the officers were read, a committee on resolutions appointed and the following officers elected for the coming year: President, Rache Berry, McCook; 1st vice-president, Edna Bullock, Lincoln, State house; 2d vice-president, Fanny Geer, Columbus, Neb.; treasurer, Margaret A. O'Brien, Omaha Public library; secretary, Clara Mulliken, State university library.

The stories of library organizations in Nebraska small towns, to which the morning program was devoted, tell a uniform tale—small means, great effort, happy results. Miss Geer's experience in organizing and conducting the Columbus public library "struck home" as we may say to many others who could com-

pare the growth of their own home library very favorably to the lines along which this one grew.

A year ago Miss Berry gave us in our meeting a most interesting recital of the ways and means of establishing a little library in McCook. This year, responding for a discussion of Miss Geer's paper, she told us again, with the same engaging confidence, of its one-year's career. There are no set formulated methods. The reading tastes of the patrons are met with matter-of-fact calmness, and through careful tact and ingenious method directed into wholesome channels. Miss Lutz's paper on Practical methods in small libraries continued the subject representing a line of suggestion and experience gleaned by workers in the State library commission. The popular demand for fiction, when only a limited amount can be gotten, may be met by charging two cents a day for the use of a book that has been found to be a good one. Under methods of "getting next to the people," she lists clippings and pictures, forethought in interesting the community by having ready lists on and pictures of an approaching lecturer, and putting them in a conspicuous place in the library—observing anniversaries and holidays in the children's department. Work with the teachers in selecting children's books, with the aim of benefiting a school child and not the imaginary, read-everything boy or girl.

Mr Wyer in summary said: The most effective library organization seems to be done through enthusiastic organizers where the library can not employ a well-trained librarian. Have simple rules for loaning books, careful attention in selection of children's books—frequency of orders for books, simple branch and delivery system, the getting something for nothing in the way of books are the successful points in administration.

Miss Bullock said there is no need of trying to meet the public demand for the Alger, Optic, and Pansy books, and a movement should be made to eliminate them entirely from Nebraska libraries.

Miss Nicholl read a paper on Col-

lege libraries in Nebraska. She emphasizes the relationship of the small college library to its local patronage, the schools and the townspeople. Her paper suggests the urgent need of a Nebraska clearing house, and Mr Wyer told of the start made in the University library to maintain and make use of a duplicate department. Sometimes in exchange, sometimes for a mere song, he has sent these to smaller libraries and made them valuable donations.

Miss Tyler's paper on Do we want a public library? in the afternoon attracted many club women into the meeting. We were much convinced through Miss Tyler's charming plea—that we do want a public library. Miss Spicard, of the Fremont public library board, reviewed in a ten-minute talk the work of the Fremont Women's club in establishing the Fremont library.

A paper that led to interesting comments was one in Supplementary reading in Normal schools, by Miss Rulon, of the Peru Normal school. If we would have the child benefited we must present things in a way that will be benefiting. The work of the school is to direct the taste, not the quantity of reading that the child should do. Mr Dana said the movement today is not to teach children the literary side of books but the utilitarian, that which will put them in the way of earning a living. He hoped a book might be compiled that would direct teachers and children to the technical, useful side of books.

The newspaper evil should be emphasized. The work of the normal school teacher should direct the children rationally as to the proper place of this stuff in their careers. Familiarize children with the pitfalls that they are likely and sure to meet and not only the ideal and beautiful in literature that they are sure not to meet.

In developing the æsthetic side, Mr Dana said there were published abroad good prints or lithographs that could be obtained in black and white for 35 cents to \$1.50 that would by reason of their cheapness bring the pictures of the masters within the reach of the libraries and

schools. Libraries should spend the first year in collecting these picture prints, fold them into manila paper for preservation and when possible have them framed or bound up.

Miss Gilbert said it was the development of latent tastes and capacity rather than meeting existing demands that the library serves its best purpose.

Mr Cutter told us in a paper on District school libraries, that Nebraska has a very small number of books at the disposal of any of the district schools. The feasibility of having a library law providing a fund for books in district school libraries, such as the one existing in Iowa, was suggested and answered in a discussion by Mr Fowler, state superintendent of schools. Mr Fowler's knowledge of district school appropriations and the small salaries paid to teachers in the poorer communities in Nebraska counties lead him to want to discourage any bill that would curtail the amount that the teacher herself would get in the appointment.

A joint meeting with the Women's club on Thursday night closed the session, Mrs Belle Stoutenborough presiding. Mr Wyer reviewed the year's history of the State library commission with encouraging comments and introduced Mr Dana, the speaker of the evening. In a 20-minute talk he told what had been accomplished in the Newark Public library and what could be done in other libraries.

**New Jersey**—The fourteenth annual meeting of the New Jersey library association met at Passaic, October 28-29. It was well attended and interesting throughout.

President Strohm of Trenton called the meeting to order, and W. C. Kimball, of the local board and of the state library commission, made the address of welcome.

A. E. Bostwick, of New York Public library, gave the first paper on Statistics. He considered them necessary to a well-conducted library in order to understand its working, and to see where improvements could be made.

John Cotton Dana presented the matter of a library journal for the New Jersey libraries as a means of communication between the libraries.

Under the subject of making the library popular outside of distributing of books, it was suggested that relics, pictures, and other loan exhibits be held, and lectures be given by outside popular speakers as well as good local talent.

The following officers were elected: President, Robert D. Benson, Passaic; vice-president, A. M. Heston, Atlantic City; secretary, E. H. Wesson, Orange; treasurer, J. Maude Campbell, Passaic.

**Ohio**—The ninth annual meeting of the Ohio Library association was held at Elyria, Oct. 6-8, 1903.

The first session was in the form of a reception given in honor of the association, by the citizens of Elyria. The elegant Elk club rooms were thrown open to the members, and a most delightful evening was spent by all present.

The first business session was held at the People's institute. President Porter called the meeting to order promptly at 9 o'clock on Wednesday a. m., and introduced Arthur L. Garford of Elyria, who made the address of welcome, which was cordial and timely. S. L. Wicoff of Sidney replied in appropriate terms in behalf of the association.

The secretary made the first report. Among other things the membership was reported as 370, an increase of 85 members during the year.

The treasurer's report showed receipts during the year as follows:

Dues received	-	-	-	\$141.00
Bal. from Oct. 1, 1902	-	-	-	9.91

Total	-	-	-	150.91
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Expenditures	-	-	-	\$125.17
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Balance on Oct. 1, 1903	-	\$25.74
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The Legislative committee reported that the municipal code of 1902 provides for the control and support of municipal libraries. Senate bill no. 8 provides for school district libraries throughout the state. The text of this law is found

in Vol. 96 of Assembly proceedings of 1902. The committee indorsed these laws as adequate and satisfactory.

The committee called attention to the need of a library organizer for the state and urged action looking toward that end as well as legislation which will provide for county libraries.

The report on Inter-relation of libraries was most interesting. Inter-loaning in Ohio is not widely practiced, very little being done outside the large cities. The report suggested three lines in which the state library might be used to help inter-loans throughout the state. First in loaning high-priced or authoritative books on special occasions, or to a special class for a short season. Second, in loaning certain high-priced and less popular magazines, especially those from foreign countries. Third, the state library to act as a sort of combined clearing house, depository, and information bureau. Local libraries were urged to utilize the state library in this direction as far as possible and thus develop the value of this coöperation.

Wednesday afternoon session was called to order promptly at 2 o'clock by President Porter. He introduced Mayor Metcalf of Findlay, who spoke very briefly to the association, and gave the association a very cordial invitation to hold its next meeting in Findlay.

Alice Burrowes followed, with a cordial invitation from the board of trustees of Springfield Public library to hold the next meeting of the association with them.

President Porter then referred these invitations to committee on resolutions, which he named as follows: Charles Orr, chairman; S. L. Wicoff, Olive Jones, Mr Soule, Alice Burrowes. He also named the following as committee on nominations: W. H. Brett, chairman; Ellen S. Wilson, Electra C Doren, Joseph Love, and W. A. Hopkins. He appointed Miss Eastman and Miss Doren a committee to respond to Miss Ahern's telegram, and express to her the loss the association felt by her being unable to meet with them.

The association then proceeded to

hear and discuss the following papers:

1 Book buying and present circumstances, read by Anna Morse, of Youngstown Free library. (This paper did not reach the secretary.)

2 Work done in connection with schools and factories, by Jennie E. Isbister, Cleveland Public library. This paper will appear in full later in PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Following this Margaret Deming, of the Lorain Public library, gave an exhaustive talk on Plans and equipment of public library buildings. After a lengthy and animated discussion the association adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock.

The evening session of Wednesday was opened by the annual address of the president, Mr Porter, who spoke briefly on the Progress of library activity during the past year. He reviewed the important gifts, and especially mentioned the new library school just established in Cleveland by the generosity of Mr Carnegie.

President Porter then introduced Miss Stearns, of the Wisconsin Free library commission, who spoke on The next step in library development in Ohio.

Miss Stearns reviewed the library history of Ohio from 1795 down to the present day. She pointed out that every start in library progress has been commendable, but that every effort of the state has stopped short of its greatest fulfillment; and while Ohio led most of the states in the start in library founding it has been out-distanced by most in progress. Several individual libraries of various Ohio cities were cited as being in the fore front in library work, but the rank and file need more systematic organization to insure better administration. This can be brought about uniformly only through a library organizer appointed by the state commission for that special purpose. Speaking directly on that point Miss Stearns gave an admirable address which appears on page 457 of this number.

Thursday's sessions were held at Oberlin.

After a hurried tour of the college grounds, the members of the associa-

tion met in the section meetings. The College library section was called to order by Miss Prince, chairman. Maude Jeffrey was appointed secretary to serve in place of Miss Herrman. The election of officers for the ensuing year was as follows: Chairman, Olive Jones, Ohio State university library; Sec'y, Minnie M. Orr, Marietta college library. After this the section adjourned to the Oberlin library, where a careful study of methods was made.

The Small library section listened to the following program:

Helpful points in cataloging and analyzing, by Laura Smith, of Cincinnati Public library. This was followed by a most carefully prepared discussion by Linda M. Clatworthy, of Dayton Public library. (These two papers will be presented in full later.)

After the adjournment of the section meetings, all members were shown to the hotel, where a most delightful dinner was served, the whole association being seated at one table.

The afternoon session was called to order promptly. President Porter announced that the attendance register contained 105 names, making this meeting the largest in the history of the association.

The first subject for consideration was a symposium on What can public libraries do for college libraries? This was opened by Miss Jones, of Ohio State university. She treated the subject in a broad and comprehensive manner, and maintained that if the public library was to serve the city in which it was located it must surely serve all constituents, and this often included college students. The public library can furnish many kinds of books which the college library is unable to obtain, especially along the line of fiction. The public library can stand for the very best methods, all that is uplifting, especially in the direction of social settlement work. This a college library can not do.

Miss Jones was followed by a paper read by Pauline Gunthorp, of Cincinnati Public library, on What can the public

library do for the college library? (This paper is given on page 454.)

#### Report of committee on place of meeting and on resolutions

Your committee begs leave to report as follows:

##### Resolutions

1 Resolved, that the State library is hereby made the permanent depository for the archives of the associations; also, that the proceedings of all previous meetings be procured by the secretary, so far as may be possible, and bound in permanent form.

2 Resolved, that, beginning with 1904, the proceedings of the annual meetings be published by the association in pamphlet form, a copy to be sent to each member in good standing.

3 Resolved, that the suggestions contained in the report of the committee on Inter-relations of libraries are hereby endorsed, and it is the sense of the association that the incoming committee on Inter-relations of libraries should seek to aid in putting said suggestions into practice.

4 Resolved, that the thanks of the association be and they are hereby tendered to the Library board and Miss Parker, the librarian of the Elyria Public library, for their untiring and successful efforts for the welfare of the visiting members; to the people of Elyria for their hospitality and the interest manifested by them in the library cause; to the press of the city for its reports and notices; also, to the First Congregational Church for the use of its beautiful auditorium; also, to Mr Root, librarian of the Oberlin College library, for the forethought shown in arranging for the sessions at Oberlin, and for his painstaking welcome to each member of the association.

Your committee reports against the advisability of amending the constitution so as to raise the amount of membership fee from fifty cents to one dollar at this time, believing, as we do, that the membership may be sufficiently increased to cover necessary expenses.

Your committee recommends that the annual meeting for 1904 be held at Findlay, the time of meeting to be left to the executive committee to determine after the date of the A. L. A. meeting shall have been fixed.

Respectfully submitted.

CHAS. ORR, chairman.  
S. L. WICOFF.

The resolutions were adopted as read.

The committee on nominations made the following report: President, Linda A. Eastman, Cleveland Public library; first vice-president, Blacque Wilson, To-

ledo Public library; second vice-president, Alice Burrowes, Springfield Public library; third vice-president, Henry M. Parker, Elyria Public library; secretary, Laura Smith, Cincinnati Public library; treasurer, Grace Prince, Wittenburg College library, Springfield. Adopted.

The association then adjourned.

N. D. C. Hodges then read his paper on English libraries in the college chapel, before the students of Oberlin and the members of the association.

GERTRUDE S. KELLICOTT,  
Secretary.

**Pennsylvania**—The first regular meeting of the season of the Pennsylvania library club was held on Monday evening, Nov. 9, 1903, at the Widener branch of the Free library of Philadelphia. The president, Mr Bliss, made a brief address of welcome, and outlined the program for the season. He then introduced the speaker of the evening, Maj. William H. Lambert, who gave a delightful talk on Some unpublished letters of William Makepeace Thackeray.

Maj. Lambert read a number of manuscript letters from his private collection of Thackeriana, commencing with one written to the author's uncle while the former was a student at Cambridge, and continuing through a number of years with letters, written to many friends and business acquaintances, setting forth Thackeray's views on a variety of subjects. In several of the letters the author referred to his dilatoriness in preparing copy for the printer; in others, when hard-pressed financially, he made appeal to his publishers for advance payment on articles still to be written; in many letters he repeatedly expressed his distaste for lecturing, but consoled himself with the reflection that thereby he was earning money for his daughters. Two of the letters were signed respectively, in a curious fashion of Thackeray's, Emily Jenkins and Blanche Foker. Of particular interest to Americans was a letter written to his sister from Richmond, Va., in which Thackeray expressed his opinion on the condition of the negroes in this country. Many of the letters were illustrated by

the writer, as was also a delightful little sketch—A young lady who was too fond of her Hume.

In conclusion, Maj. Lambert read from the manuscript of "Dr Birch and his young friends," the well-known epilogue, commencing:

The play is done; the curtain drops,  
Slow falling, to the prompter's bell.

This poem was so full of erasures and interlineations as to make its reading very difficult. After his talk, Maj. Lambert kindly permitted his letters and manuscripts to be freely examined by the members and friends of the club who were present.

An informal reception was held in the upper hall after the meeting.

EDITH BRINKMANN, Sec'y.

### Proceedings of N. E. A., 1903

The volume of Proceedings of the Boston convention is nearing completion and will be ready for distribution soon after December 1. As the edition will number 18,000 copies, delivery may not be completed before January 1.

In view of the large number of applications for reprints of the papers of certain departments it has been decided to print 500 "separates" of each of the following named departments, which will be bound separately with cover, title page, and index, and sent by mail, while the supply lasts, at the nominal prices indicated:

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Departments of Elementary education; Art education.....	5c

A reasonable discount will be given on orders for 10 or more copies to one address. The complete volume will be sent express prepaid to any address for \$2.

IRWIN SHEPARD, Secretary.  
Winona, Minn.

### Library Schools

#### Drexel institute evening school

Sarah W. Cattell, who has been the assistant librarian and instructor in the library school for the past six years, has resigned on account of ill health. Ella R. Seligsberg, a graduate of the New York State library school, has been appointed in her place.

At the annual meeting of the Library school association, held at the institute on November 4, a reception was tendered the members of the incoming class. The entertainment following the reception consisted of some amusing Scotch ballads acted in pantomime.

Frances E. Earhart, class of 1902, has been appointed assistant in the Public library, Buffalo, N. Y.

Amy Keith, class of '98, was married October 21, to Charles Ray Miller.

Bessie McCord, class of 1903, has been made librarian of the Bozeman Free library, Bozeman, Mont.

Irene DuPont Winans, class of 1903, has been appointed assistant in the library of the university of Pennsylvania.

Edythe M. Bache, class of 1901, has been engaged as an assistant in the library of the university of Pennsylvania.

#### Carnegie library of Pittsburg

##### Training class for children's librarians

The training school opened on Monday, October 12, with two in the senior class, three in the junior class, and nine special students. These latter are those who have had experience in library work in one department or another. October 15, 17, Miss Stearns, of the Wisconsin Free library commission, gave three lectures on The library spirit, The library beautiful, and The circuit rider of today. On October 26, Mary Emogene Hazeltine, Jamestown, N. Y., talked to the students on Library work with children.

##### Appointments of students to positions

Gertrude Elizabeth Andrus, '04, children's librarian, Lawrenceville branch, Carnegie library of Pittsburg.

Emma Arrietta Floyd, '04, assistant in Wylie avenue branch, Carnegie library of Pittsburg.

Alice Gordon Goddard, '04, first assistant and children's librarian, Reuben McMillan Freerlibrary, Youngstown, Ohio.

Harriet Josephine Imhoff, '04, assistant in division of work with schools, Carnegie library of Pittsburg.

Adelaide Leiper Martin, assistant in children's room, Wylie avenue branch, Carnegie Library of Pittsburg.

Marie Martin Smith, special '02, and since September, 1902, children's librarian of the Lawrenceville branch, Carnegie library of Pittsburg, has been appointed assistant in charge of children's work, Rosenberg library association, Galveston, Texas.

#### Simmons college

On October 1 Simmons college began its second year. The teaching force of the library class has been increased by the addition of two instructors, Julia M. Whittlesey, N. Y. state library school '93, and Walter L. Barrell, formerly of the Boston Athenæum.

The class has three divisions, first year, second year, and advanced students. The technical work of the first year students in the library and secretarial departments of the college is identical for the first term, consisting of two hours dictionary cataloging and handwriting, and three hours shorthand and typewriting each week. The 26 members of the second year class carry one hour each of reference work and classification a week, with one hour of practice work for each lecture, and give two hours of practical work to the newly collected college library.

During the summer vacation several members of this class have had opportunity for apprentice work in libraries. The advanced class is open only to those who have finished their college work and are thus able to give their entire time to technical study. The college reserves the right in every case to require additional work in any subject in which the preparation of the student seems weak. This course will cover in two years the same ground, technically, as the regular four years' course.

MARY E. ROBBINS.

## News from the Field

## East

Andrew Carnegie has offered New Haven, Conn., \$300,000 for a public library, on the usual conditions. It will be accepted by the city, but legislative power will have to be obtained first.

The public library of Providence, R. I., has opened its lecture room to a series of lectures this winter on the educational advantages of Rhode Island and how to use them. These lectures are to be given by specialists, and every phase of the work is represented. Libraries will be presented in April, 1904, by W. E. Foster, of the Public library, H. L. Koopman, of Brown university library, and G. P. Winship, of the John Carter Brown library.

The library of Brown university has recently been enriched by the gift of a collection of newspaper clippings. The collection contains about 200,000 cuttings, all of which are carefully credited, dated, and folded for reference. It covers a period of about 20 years, and relates to nearly every question that has been before the public during that time, and been the subject of newspaper discussions. There is a record of nearly every important labor strike that has occurred since 1883, taken from the newspapers in the city where the strike occurred, affording a record from which nearly a complete history of labor troubles could be written. The progress of city transit and the controversies between the authorities of cities and street-car corporations is included. About 10,000 cuttings relate to journalism. There is also a newspaper account of the Spanish war, gathered day by day. On most questions the record is exhaustive. The collection was made by Walter C. Hamm, now United States consul at Hull, while he was a member of the editorial staff of the *Philadelphia press*.

## Central Atlantic

The state library of Maryland has been moved into the new state building.

Robert Morrill McCurdy, B. L. S., New York 1903, has been appointed cataloger at the Gardner A Sage library, New Brunswick, N. J.

Pratt institute Free library, Brooklyn, has adopted open shelves, and after arranging the rooms to meet the change, the result is considered highly satisfactory.

The Ralph Vorhees library was publicly presented to Rutgers college, Brunswick, N. J., November 10. This building is the gift of Ralph Vorhees of Clinton, N. J., and cost \$60,000.

The new building for the Chatham Square branch of the New York Public library was opened November 2. This is the second of the new Carnegie buildings to be opened.

The building has three full stories with a basement and a half story on the roof for the janitor's apartments.

In the basement is an assembly room capable of holding 250 persons, besides the usual boiler room, space for coal, storage, lobbies and room for packing and receiving books. The first floor is occupied by the children's circulating and reading rooms, and the second floor by the circulating department for adults. The third floor is given up to a general periodical and reading room, where there are also glass cases for exhibitions.

The building is of the most approved fireproof construction throughout, and the front is of granite and Indiana limestone. It is lighted by electricity and heated by hot water on a combination of the direct and indirect systems; and contains automatic lifts on all floors. The equipment is by the Library Bureau.

## Central

Ellen Howard Ray has been chosen for librarian at Marshalltown, Iowa.

The Moline (Ill.) Public library will install a bindery in its new building nearing completion.

A new rule of the Burlington (Iowa) Public library gives a half holiday every week to each member of the staff.

The corner-stone of the new library building at Lansing, Mich., was laid on November 10, with appropriate ceremonies.

The Library commission of Indiana has held a series of library institutes at various places in the state, with most satisfactory results.

A. H. Hopkins left Chicago for Louisville November 23. Mr Hopkins was the guest of honor at a dinner given by the library men of Chicago, at the University club November 20.

The Buffalo Public library has decided to open two branch libraries, fully equipped with a trained attendant, in two of the school houses, at a considerable distance from the main building.

Gratia Countryman, who has been assistant librarian of the Minneapolis Public library for the past 15 years, has been elected librarian to succeed Dr J. H. Hosmer, whose resignation has been handed in to take effect Feb. 1, 1904. The office of assistant has not been filled.

The Wisconsin commission in a recent meeting laid plans which will increase largely its usefulness and at the same time more closely systematize its work. The work has been divided into instruction department and traveling libraries. Cornelia Marvin will have charge of the instruction department, into which will be placed the library school, the organization of new libraries, the inspection and reorganization of old libraries, consultation as regards buildings, supplies, and selection of books. Lutie E. Stearns, assisted by Kate I. McDonald, will have charge of the traveling libraries, of which there are now 180, in all their relations. The library commission of Wisconsin has come to be an important part of the state administration, and is constantly growing. R. G. Thwaites is acting secretary in the absence of F. A. Hutchins, who is at present in ill health.

#### West

The children's room of the public library at Ogden, Utah, has received a

gift of \$100 for new books from interested citizens. Zoe Faddis, the new librarian, reports the extension of library influence is rousing a large interest among all classes.

#### South

A \$15,000 library building, the gift of Mr Carnegie, is nearing completion at Greenville, Texas. Mrs Margaret Quigley is librarian. Irene D. Gallaway is assisting in the organization.

John P. Kennedy has been elected librarian of Virginia State library. Mr Kennedy was in the reference department of the Congressional library for five years and is highly recommended for his present position.

Marie M. Smith, a graduate of the Training school for children's librarians, has resigned her position as children's librarian of the Lawrenceville branch of the Carnegie library of Pittsburg, to become children's librarian and general assistant at the Rosenberg library, Galveston, Texas. Miss Smith took one year of the course at the New York State library school, 1900-1901.

#### Canada

The Chateau de Ramezay has been undergoing alterations which have restored in a large measure the ancient appearance of the building. Much of the worthless additions made in recent years have been removed, and in many ways the place as a landmark has been made more satisfactory. The library in the chateau is growing in value and extent.

#### Foreign

In response to anxious inquiries from all over the world as to the losses by the recent fire and the amount of damage done to the Vatican library, the librarian, Father Ehrle, said: The fire did not reach the library nor my apartment, nor the rooms where manuscripts are repaired, but was in an adjoining garret, which was almost empty. Absolutely nothing belonging to the library was burned, since the manuscripts which were being repaired were hurriedly removed by me at the first notice of fire.

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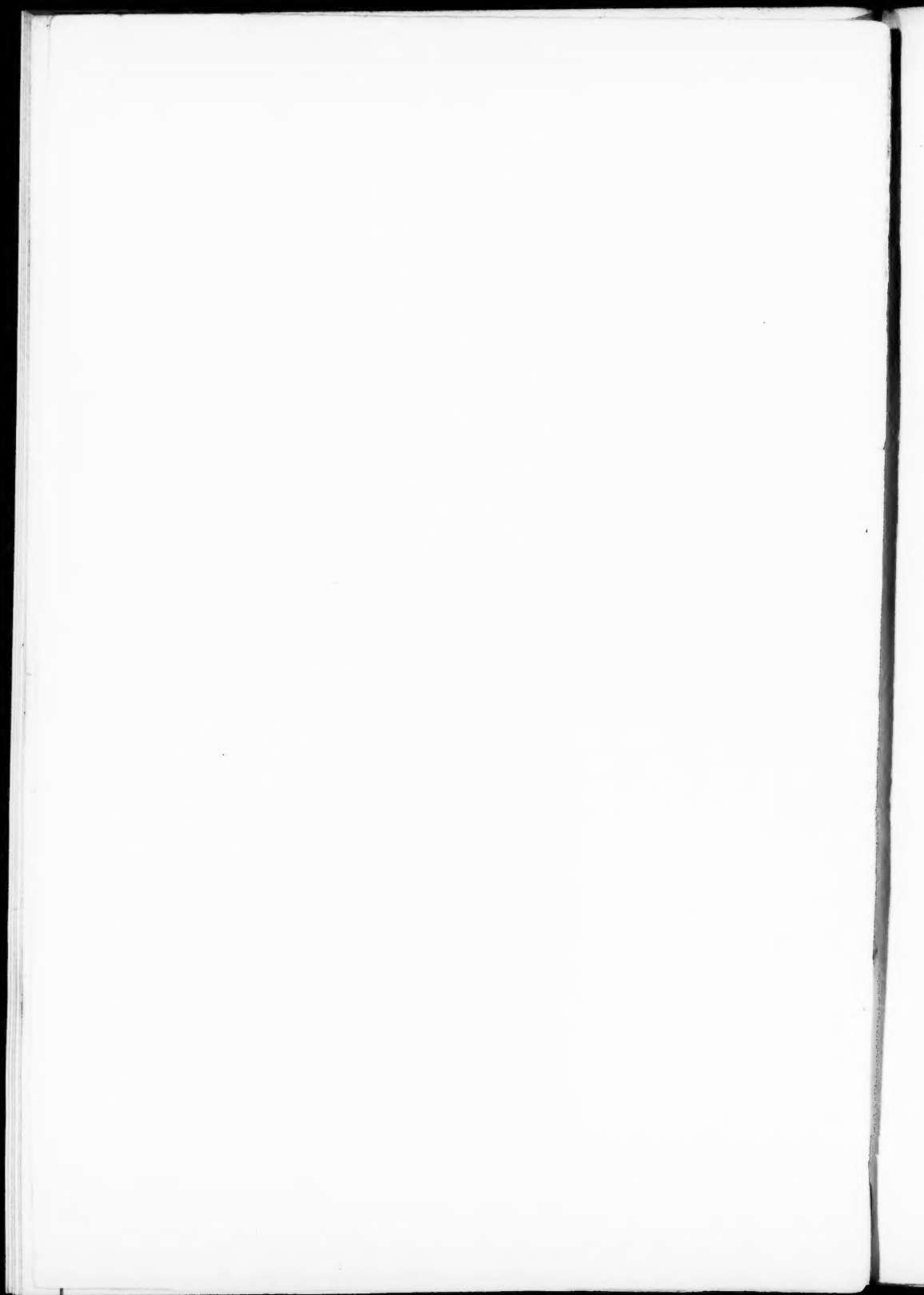
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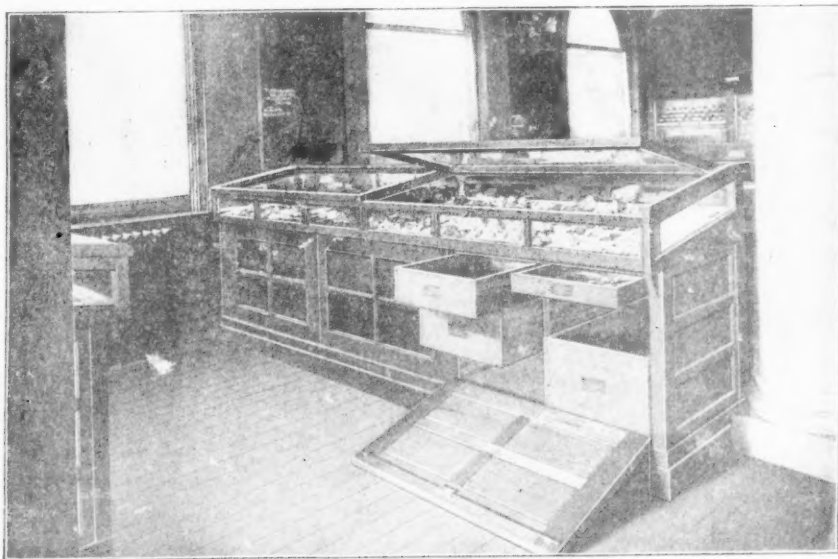
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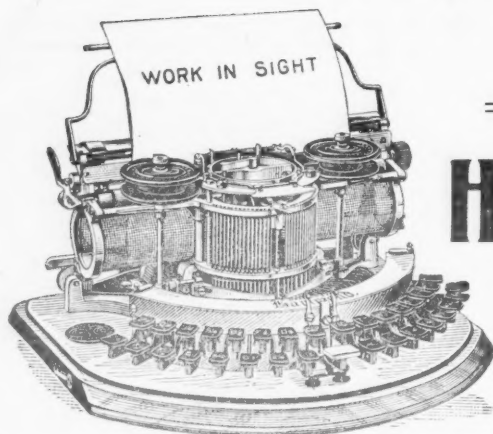
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